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PARAPHRASES AND TRANSLATIONS  
FROM THE GREEK







PARAPHRASES AND  
TRANSLATIONS FROM  
THE GREEK

BY THE  
EARL OF CROMER

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED  
LONDON AND NEW YORK

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## PREFACE

I HAVE at times amused myself by endeavouring to render into English verse some of the epigrams of the Greek Anthology, and other pieces. It may possibly amuse others to read them. I have therefore, after much hesitation, decided to publish them.

The epigrams are, with a very few exceptions, selected from Mr. Mackail's *Select Epigrams from the Greek Anthology*. The classification and, in the great majority of cases, the title of each epigram are also borrowed from Mr. Mackail.

In making the translations from Theocritus and Moschus, I have used principally Kiessling's edition (London and Cambridge, 1829).

My very limited knowledge of Greek<sup>1</sup> would

<sup>1</sup> I was not taught Greek at school, and should probably have remained in complete ignorance of the language all my life had it not been for the accident that, when I first obtained a commission in the army in 1858, I was sent to

not, however, have permitted me to have undertaken any translations into verse, had I not been assisted by the excellent prose translations, in the case of the Anthology, of Mr. Mackail, and in the case of Theocritus and Moschus, of Mr. Andrew Lang.

As to the difficulty of translation, I cannot do better than quote from a letter of Mr. Mackail's. "What I think one always feels," Mr. Mackail wrote to me, "about translations from the Greek at the present day, is the extraordinary difficulty of retaining what (for want of a better word) may be called the dignity of the original, which is as marked a quality of Greek writing as its inimitable ease. It always remained, even when used by weak hands for trivial purposes, the language of Homer and Simonides; it went on wearing its robes with a certain high simplicity, even in the time of decay."

Even in far more skilled hands than my own the difficulty either of translating or of paraphrasing is, in fact, very great. Most of my versions are paraphrases rather than translations.

I have endeavoured to avoid the use of ornate

*Corfu.* There I acquired a fair colloquial knowledge of modern Greek. Being attracted by the language, I then learnt a certain amount of ancient Greek. In subsequent years I kept up the study, though after a very desultory fashion.

language. One of the many beauties of Greek poetry is its simplicity.

I beg any one who may do me the honour of glancing at this little volume to bear in mind that it is not the work of a scholar, or of even a very minor poet, but that of a Government official who, during the leisure moments of a somewhat busy life, has dabbled a little in Greek literature, and has occasionally amused himself by making verses—which is not always the same thing as writing poetry.

I have to acknowledge the valuable help I have received in the shape of suggestions and criticisms from several friends—notably from Mr. C. L. Graves, Mr. Mackail, and Mr. Harold Perry.

CROMER.

LONDON, *August* 1903.



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# ANTHOLOGY



I  
LOVE



## PRELUDE

POSIDIPPUS

Κεκροπὶ ραῖνε λάγυνε πολύδροσον ἰκμάδα Βάκχου,  
 ραῖνε, δροσιζέσθω συμβολικὴ πρόποσις·  
 σιγάσθω Ζήνων ὁ σοφὸς κύκνος, ἅ τε Κλεάνθους  
 μούσα· μέλοι δ' ἡμῖν ὁ γλυκύπικρος Ἔρως.

LET the jar of Athens drip,  
 Drench the feast as though with dew,  
 Here let each the wine-cup sip,  
 Boon companions, blithe and true.  
 Swan-like Zeno holds his peace,  
 Stoic verse gains no esteem,  
 Here our song shall never cease,  
 Sweetly-bitter Love the theme.

## II

## LAUS VENERIS

ASCLEPIADES

ἡδὺν θέρους διψῶντι χιῶν ποτόν, ἡδὺν δὲ ναύταις  
 ἐκ χειμῶνος ἰδεῖν εἰαρινὸν στέφανον·  
 ἡδιστον δ' ὅπότεν κρύψη μία τοὺς φιλέοντας  
 χλαῖνα καὶ αἰνῆται Κύπρις ὑπ' ἀμφοτέρων.

SWEET in the sultry dog-days 'tis to drain  
 Thy sparkling vintage, O divine champagne !<sup>1</sup>  
 Sweet to the sailor, when the vernal hour  
 Dispels the fear of winter's boisterous power.  
 But sweeter still when, with one cloak for cover,  
 The loved one echoes whispers of her lover.

<sup>1</sup> I feel that some apology is necessary for this obvious anachronism. Mr. Harold Perry points out to me that in what Macaulay (*Works*, vi. p. 614) calls Warren Hastings' "pleasing imitation" of *Otium Divos rogat in patenti*, "slow Mahratta" and "hardier Sikhs" are made to do service for Horace's warlike Thracians and "quiver-graced" Medes. I do not mind erring in such illustrious company, and have, therefore, ventured to make Asclepiades vaunt the merit of champagne.



## III

## LOVE'S SWEETNESS

NOSSIS

ἄδιον οὐδὲν ἔρωτος, ἂ δ' ὄλβια, δεύτερα πάντα  
 ἐστίν· ἀπὸ στόματος δ' ἔπτυσα καὶ τὸ μέλι·  
 τοῦτο λέγει Νοσσίς· τίνα δ' ἂ Κύπρις οὐκ ἐφίλασεν,  
 οὐκ οἶδεν κήρας τάνθεα ποῖα ῥόδα.

PRETTY Nossis vows that she  
 Spurns the honey of the bee,  
 But that Cupid can distil  
 Sweets the cup of joy to fill.  
 Whom Venus hates can never know  
 What roses in her garden grow.

## IV

## LOVE AND THE SCHOLAR

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS

Ἡσιόδου ποτὲ βίβλον ἐμαῖς ὑπὸ χερσὶν ἐλίσσω  
 Πύρρην ἐξαπίνης εἶδον ἐπερχομένην·  
 βίβλον δὲ ρίψας ἐπὶ γῆν χερί, ταῦτ' ἐβόησα·  
 ἔργα τί μοι παρέχεις, ὦ γέρον Ἡσίοδε ;

As over Hesiod's page I pore,  
 Comes tripping in my lovely Katie.  
 I fling the book upon the floor,  
 And cry, "Old Hesiod, how I hate ye!"

## V

## THE REVELLER

MELEAGER

βεβλήσθω κύβος· ἄπτε· πορεύσομαι· ἠνίδε τόλμα.  
 οἰνοβαρές, τί' ἔχεις φροντίδα; κωμάσομαι.  
 κωμάσομαι; πῆ θυμὲ τρέπη; τί δ' ἔρωτι λογισμός;  
 ἄπτε τάχος. ποῦ δ' ἡ πρόσθε λόγων μελέτη;  
 ἐρρίφθω σοφίας ὁ πολὺς πόνος· ἐν μόνον οἶδα  
 τοῦθ', ὅτι καὶ Ζηνὸς λῆμα καθεῖλεν Ἔρως.

CAST the dice, away I'll hie !

Whither, reveller, tell me whither ?

Where my Lesbia's laughing eye

Calls to love, I'll hie me thither.

Study wastes the fleeting hour,

Wisdom is but toil and pain,

Zeus himself felt Cupid's power,

Love secured him with his chain.

## VI

## LOVE AND WINE

RUFINUS

ὄπλισμαι πρὸς Ἔρωτα περὶ στέρνοισι λογισμόν,  
 οὐδέ με νικήσει, μῦνος ἔων πρὸς ἓνα,  
 θνατὸς δ' ἀθανάτῳ συστήσομαι· ἦν δὲ βοηθὸν  
 Βάκχον ἔχῃ, τί μόνος πρὸς δὺ' ἐγὼ δύναμαι ;

WITH Reason armed, I'll conquer Love,  
 And bid a single god defiance.  
 If Bacchus now my foe should prove,  
 I'll yield me to the twin alliance.

## VII

## LOVE IN THE STORM

ASCLEPIADES

*νίφε, χαλαζοβόλει, ποίει σκότος, αἶθε, κεραύνου,  
 πάντα τὰ πορφύροντ' ἐν χθονὶ σείε νέφη,  
 ἦν γάρ με κτείνης, τότε παύσομαι· ἦν δέ μ' ἀφῆς ζῆν,  
 καὶ διαθείς τούτων χείρονα, κωμάσομαι·  
 ἔλκει γάρ μ' ὁ κρατῶν καὶ σοῦ θεός, ᾧ ποτε πεισθείς,  
 Ζεῦ, διὰ χαλκείων χρυσὸς ἔδυσ θαλάμων.*

RAIN and lighten, crash thy thunder !  
 If I'm slain, I cease to be,  
 Whilst I live, nought e'er shall sunder  
 Me from Love, or Love from me.  
 Thou, O Zeus, hast felt the power  
 Of the god we both obey,  
 Brazen though the bridal bower,  
 Love and money forced the way.

## VIII

## A KISS WITHIN THE CUP

AGATHIAS

εἰμί μὲν οὐ φιλόοινος· ὅταν δ' ἐθέλῃς με μεθύσσαι,  
 πρῶτα σὺ γενομένη πρόσφερε καὶ δέχομαι·  
 εἰ γὰρ ἐπιψαύσεις τοῖς χείλεσιν, οὐκέτι νήφειν  
 εὐμαρές, οὐδὲ φυγεῖν τὸν γλυκὺν οἰνοχόον·  
 πορθμεύει γὰρ ἔμοιγε κύλιξ παρὰ σοῦ τὸ φίλημα,  
 καί μοι ἀπαγγέλλει τὴν χάριν ἣν ἔλαβεν.

I DRINK no wine, but bow to thy command,  
 Yet give me first the cup from thy dear hand.  
 If, having tasted, thou should'st then draw nigh,  
 So sweet a cup-bearer I cannot fly.  
 From thine own lips the cup will draw its bliss,  
 And serve to bear from thee to me a kiss.

## IX

## LOVE'S DRINK

MELEAGER

τὸ σκύφος ἠδὲ γέγηθε, λέγει δ' ὅτι τὰς φιλέρωτος  
 Ζηνοφίλας ψαύει τοῦ λαλιῦ στόματος,  
 ὄλβιον· εἴθ' ὑπ' ἐμοῖς νῦν χείλεσι χεῖλα θεῖσα  
 ἀπνευστὶ ψυχὰν τὰν ἐν ἐμοὶ προπίοι.

AH ! Cup of sweetness, lasting joy is thine,  
 My love's own honeyed mouth has given thee bliss !  
 Would that she now would join her lips to mine,  
 And drain my very soul in one long kiss !



## X

## LOVE THE RUNAWAY

## MELEAGER

κηρύσσω τὸν Ἔρωτα τὸν ἄγριον· ἄρτι γὰρ ἄρτι  
 ὀρθρινὸς ἐκ κοίτας ὄχρετ' ἀποπτάμενος.  
 ἔστι δ' ὁ παῖς γλυκύδακρυς, αἰείλαλος, ὠκύς, ἀθαμβής,  
 σιμὰ γελῶν, πτερόεις νῶτα, φαρετροφόρος,  
 πατρὸς δ' οὐκέτ' ἔχω φράζειν τίνος· οὔτε γὰρ αἰθίρ,  
 οὐ χθών φησι τεκεῖν τὸν θρασύν, οὐ πέλαγος.  
 πάντη γὰρ καὶ πᾶσιν ἀπέχθεται· ἀλλ' ἐσορᾶτε  
 μή που νῦν ψυχαῖς ἄλλα τίθησι λῖνα.  
 καίτοι κείνος, ἰδοῦ, περὶ φωλεόν· οὐ με λέληθας,  
 τοξότα, Ζηνοφίλας ὄμμασι κρυπτόμενος.

I CHASE wild Love ; at earliest morn  
    He flies away with bow and quiver,  
At times he's tearful and forlorn,  
    Then changes as the shimmering river.  
He's fearless, chattering, quick and sly,  
    His arrows adamant would pierce,  
He's hot, he's cold, he's pert, he's shy,  
    And all at once he's mild and fierce.  
Whose son is he? Both Heaven and Earth,  
    And loud-resounding Ocean's wave,  
Vow that they ne'er have given birth  
    To one who makes the world a slave.  
The hateful boy ! But have a care !  
    His deadly arrow swiftly flies.  
I see him now. He's lurking there !  
    He's ambushed in my Zoe's eyes !

## XI

## LOVE'S SYMPATHY

CALLIMACHUS

ἔλκος ἔχων ὁ ξεῖνος ἐλάνθανει· ὡς ἀνηρὸν  
 πνεῦμα διὰ στηθέων, εἶδες, ἀνηγάγετο.  
 τὸ τρίτον ἠνίδ' ἔπινε, τὰ δὲ ῥόδα φυλλοβολεῦντα  
 τῶνδρὸς ἀπὸ στεφάνων πάντ' ἐχέοντο χαμαί·  
 ὄπτηται μέγα δὴ τι· μὰ δαίμονας οὐκ ἀπὸ ῥυσμοῦ  
 εἰκάζω, φωρὸς δ' ἴχνια φῶρ ἔμαθον.

HE drained two full beakers with many a sigh,  
And nervously clutched a third brimmer before him,  
There was madness and rage in the glance of his eye,  
He'd not have been known by the mother who bore him.  
I knew not the wound, but I guessed at the cause  
When he flung from his garland the roses and leaves,  
Oft wounded by Cupid, I've bowed to his laws,  
Set a cunning old thief on the track of the thieves.

## XII

## DEARER THAN DAY

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS

σώζέ, σοι μέλλων ἐπέπειν, παλίνορσον ἰωὴν  
 ἄψ ἀνασειράζω καὶ πάλιν ἄγχι μένω,  
 σὴν γὰρ ἐγὼ δασπλήτα διάστασιν οἶά τε πικρὴν  
 νύκτα καταπήσσω τὴν Ἀχερουτιάδα·  
 ἤματι γὰρ σέο φέγγος ὁμοῖον· ἀλλὰ τὸ μὲν που  
 ἄφθογγον, σὺ δέ μοι καὶ τὸ λάλημα φέρεις  
 κείνο τὸ Σειρήνων γλυκερώτερον, ᾧ ἔπι πᾶσαι  
 εἰσὶν ἐμῆς ψυχῆς ἐλπίδες ἐκκρεμέες.

“FAREWELL!” I murmur, and then hold my breath,  
    Whilst, fondly lingering, by thy side I stay,  
I shrink from parting as from cruel Death,  
    Thy light is glorious as the summer’s day.  
But day, though glorious, cannot tune a voice  
    To soothe my troubles or enchant my ear,  
Whilst thy sweet Siren notes my soul rejoice  
    With music such as lovers yearn to hear.

## XIII

## AT COCKCROW

ANTIPATER OF THESSALONICA

ὄρθρος ἔβη, Χρῦσιλλα, πάλαι ὃ ἠῶος ἀλέκτωρ  
 κηρύσσω φθοερίην Ἑριγένειαν ἄγει·  
 ὀρνίθων ἔρροις φθοερώτατος, ὅς με διώκεις  
 οἴκοθεν εἰς πολλοὺς ἠϊθέων ὀάρους.  
 γηράσκεις Τιθωνέ· τί γὰρ σὴν εὐνέτιν Ἥῶ  
 οὔτως ὀρθριδίην ἤλασας ἐκ λεχέων ;

THE dawn, my love, stalks on in mantle grey,  
 The envious cock proclaims the birth of day.  
 Thy haste, Tithonus, serves too well to prove  
 Thou hast grown old, and carest no more for love.  
 Thou chasest lovely Dawn with rosy fingers  
 From out thy couch whilst night still softly lingers.



## XIV

## WAITING

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS

δηθύνει Κλεοφάντις· ὁ δὲ τρίτος ἄρχεται ἤδη  
 λύχνος ὑποκλίσζειν ἦκα μαραινόμενος·  
 αἶθε δὲ καὶ κραδίης πυρσὸς συναπέσβετο λύχνῳ,  
 μηδέ μ' ὑπ' ἀγρύπνοις δηρὸν ἔκαιε πόθοις.  
 ἂ πόσα τὴν Κυθέρειαν ἐπώμοσεν ἔσπερος ἦξειν·  
 ἀλλ' οὔτ' ἀνθρώπων φείδεται οὔτε θεῶν.

CLEANTHE lingers, though the beckoning fire,  
 Rekindled, dies again and yet again.  
 Would that I too could quench my heart's desire,  
 And cast her image from my wakeful brain !  
 She swore full many a pretty Paphian oath  
 To keep the trysting ; then she breaks her troth.

## XV

## WAITING IN VAIN

ASCLEPIADES

ὠμολόγησ' ἤξειν εἰς νύκτα μοι ἡ ἄπιβόητος  
 Νικώ, καὶ σεμνήν ὤμοσε Θεσμοφόρον,  
 κοῦχ ἤκει, φυλακὴ δὲ παροίχεται· ἄρ' ἐπιорκεῖν  
 ἤθελε; τὸν λύχνον, παῖδες, ἀποσβέσατε.

Most surely did my Nico swear  
 At night she to my arms would fly;  
 The hour is past—no Nico here!  
 Ho! Quench the lamp! Did Nico lie?

## XVI

## THE SCORNED LOVER

ASCLEPIADES

Νύξ, σὲ γὰρ οὐκ ἄλλην μαρτύρομαι, οἷά μ' ὑβρίζει  
 Πυθιάς ἢ Νικῶς οὔσα φιλεξαπάτης,  
 κληθεῖς οὐκ ἄκλητος ἐλίλυθα· ταῦτ' ἀπαθούσα  
 σοὶ μέμψαιτ' ἐπ' ἐμοῖς στᾶσά ποτε προθύροις.

SHE bade me come, the traitress fair,  
 O Night, and now she dares to flout me !  
 Some day she'll crave my love. I swear  
 That then she'll have to go without me !

## XVII

## LA BELLE DAME SANS MERCI

AGATHIAS

ἦ ῥά γε καὶ σύ, Φίλινα, φέρεις πόθον, ἦ ῥα καὶ αὐτὴ  
 κάμνεις ἀναλέοις ὄμμασι τηκομένη ;  
 ἦ σὺ μὲν ὕπνον ἔχεις γλυκερώτατον, ἡμετέρης δὲ  
 φρεντίδος οὔτε λόγος γίνεται οὔτ' ἀριθμός ;  
 εὐρήσεις τὰ ὅμοια, τήν δ', ἀμέγαρτε, παρειὴν  
 ἀθρήσω θαμινοῖς δάκρυσι τεγγομένην·  
 Κύπρις γὰρ τὰ μὲν ἄλλα παλίγκοτος, ἐν δέ τι καλὴν  
 ἔλλαχεν, ἐχθαίρειν τὰς σοβαρευομένας.

PHILINNA, dost thou waste and pine,  
    Though tearless are those lovely eyes?  
Or is refreshing slumber thine,  
    And dost thou scoff at lovers' sighs?  
Thou too shalt weep, my haughty dame,  
    Thou too shalt feel the hand of Fate.  
Venus can this one virtue claim,  
    The scornful fair incurs her hate.

## XVIII

## AMANTIUM IRAE

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS

δικλίδας ἀμφετίναξεν ἐμοῖς Γαλάτεια προσώποις  
 ἔσπερος, ὑβριστὴν μῦθον ἰπευξαμένη.  
 ὕβρις ἔρωτας ἔλυσε· μάτην ὅδε μῦθος ἀλάται·  
 ὕβρις ἐμὴν ἐρέθει μᾶλλον ἐρωμανίην·  
 ὄμοσα γὰρ λυκάβαντα μένειν ἀπάνευθεν ἐκείνης.  
 ὦ πόποι, ἀλλ' ἰκέτης πρώϊος εὐθὺς ἔβην.

My mistress cast me forth at eventide,  
 Upbraiding me with words of scornful pride.  
 Who says, "Scorn quenches Love," I call a liar,  
 My lady's scorn inflames my own desire.  
 I swore for a full year to stay away,  
 Then sued for pardon at the break of day !

## XIX

## FLOWN LOVE

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS

Μήνη χρυσόκερως δέρκη τάδε καὶ πυριλαμπεῖς  
 ἀστέρες οὐς κόλποις Ὀκεανὸς δέχεται,  
 ὡς με μόνον προλιπούσα μυρόπνοος ὄχετ' Ἀρίστη,  
 ἐκταίην δ' εὐρεῖν τὴν μάγον οὐ δύναμαι·  
 ἀλλ' ἔμπης αὐτὴν ζητήσομεν· ἦ ῥ' ἐπιπέμφω  
 Κύπριδος ἰχνευτὰς ἀργυρέους σκύλακας.

THOU Moon, that beam'st on many a lover !  
 Ye Stars that sink in Ocean's bed !  
 All things ye must perforce discover,  
 Ye know that my Ariste's fled.  
 'Tis six days since the fairy left me,  
 Yet still I strive to bring her back,  
 Of one chance she has not bereft me,  
 Love's silvery hounds are on her track.

## XX

## MOONLIGHT

PHILODEMUS

νυκτερινή, δίκερως, φιλοπάννουχε φαίνε Σελήνη,  
 φαίνε, δι' εὐτρήτων βαλλομένη θυρίδων·  
 αὐγαζε χρυσέην Καλλίστιον· ἐς τὰ φιλεύντων  
 ἔργα κατοπτεύειν οὐ φθόνος ἀθανάτη.  
 ὀλβίζεις καὶ τήνδε καὶ ἡμέας, οἶδα, Σελήνη,  
 καὶ γὰρ σὴν ψυχὴν ἔφλεγεν Ἐνδυμίων.

SHINE, twy-horned Lady of the Night, shine on !  
 Grace with thy light the fair Callistion,  
 Pour down thy silvery moonbeams from above,  
 And shed thy glory on our mutual love.  
 Immortal, thou mayest gaze and feel no shame,  
 Endymion set thine own fair soul aflame.



## XXI

## ROSE

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*εἶθε ῥόδον γενόμην ὑποπόφυρον, ὄφρα με χερσὶν  
ἀρσαμένη χάριση στήθεσι χιονέοις.*

O THAT I were a red rose, and might know  
The grace of resting on thy breast of snow.

## XXII

## LOVE THE GAMBLER

MELEAGER

*ματρὸς ἔτ' ἐν κόλποισιν ὁ νήπιος ὀρθρινὰ παίζων  
ἀστραγάλοις τοῦμόν' πνεῦμ' ἐκύβευσεν Ἕρωσ.*

LOVE, lying on his mother's lap,  
 Though still a babe, with dice did play.  
 E'en then he wrought me this mishap—  
 He cast, and played my life away.

## XXIII

## DRIFTING

MELEAGER

κῦμα τὸ πικρὸν Ἔρωτος ἀκοίμητοί τε πνέοντες  
 Ζῆλοι καὶ κώμων χειμέριον πέλαγος,  
 ποῖ φέρομαι ; πάντη δὲ φρενῶν οἶακες ἀφεῖνται·  
 ἢ πάλι τὴν τρυφερὴν Σκύλλαν ἐποψόμεθα.

HITHER and thither am I cast  
 By Love's fell wave. A jealous blast  
 At times blows hard, and then I shift  
 My sails, or let the vessel drift.  
 Tossed on a wintry sea of drink,  
 I know not if I float or sink.  
 I have no helm to guide my way,  
 Scylla stands waiting for her prey.

## XXIV

## LOVE'S RELAPSES

## MELEAGER

ψυχή) δυσδάκρυτε, τί σοι τὸ πεπανθὲν Ἔρωτος  
 τραῦμα διὰ σπλίγγων ἀθις ἀναφλέγεται ;  
 μή, μὴ πρὸς σε Διός, μὴ πρὸς Διός, ᾧ φιλάβουλε,  
 κινήσης τέφρη πῦρ ὑπολαμπόμενον·  
 αὐτίκα γάρ, λήθαργε κακῶν, πάλιν εἴ σε φυγούσαν  
 λήψεται Ἔρωτος, εὐρὼν δραπέτιν αἰκίσεται.

INFATUATE youth, again so soon to feel  
 The wound which Time and Absence sought to heal !  
 Nay, nay, for God's sake ! Temper thy desire.  
 The ashes smoulder—cherish not the fire.  
 For, should'st thou fly, Love in pursuit will start,  
 And, heedless of past pain, will wring thine heart.

## XXV

## LOVE THE BALL-PLAYER

MELEAGER

σφαιριστὰν τὸν Ἔρωτα τρέφω, σοὶ δ', Ἥλιοδώρα,  
 βάλλει τὰν ἐν ἔμοι παλλομένην κραδίαν.  
 ἄλλ' ἄγε συμπαίκτην δέξαι Πόθον· εἰ δ' ἀπὸ σεῦ με  
 ρίψαις, οὐκ οἶσω τὰν ἀπίλαιστρον ὕβριν.

Love plays at ball and throws to thee  
 The heart, my dear, that throbs in me.  
 Take thou his playmate, sweet Desire,  
 And let him fan the mutual fire.  
 Thou can'st not then cast me away,  
 The rules of Love forbid false play.

## XXVI

## MOTH AND CANDLE

MELEAGER

*τὴν περιηχομένην ψυχὴν ἂν πολλάκι καίης  
 φεύξετ', Ἔρως· καυτὴ, σκέτλι, ἔχει πτέρυγας.*

My soul, O Love, has wings like thee,  
 Scorch it too much, and it will flee.

## XXVII

## LOVE THE SLAYER

MELEAGER

λίσσομ', Ἔρως, τὸν ἄγρυπνον ἔμοι πόθον Ἑλιοδώρας  
 κοίμισον αἰδεσθεῖς Μοῦσαν ἐμὴν ἰκέτιν·  
 ναὶ γὰρ δὴ τὰ σὰ τόξα, τὰ μὴ δεδιδραγμένα βάλλῃ  
 ἄλλον, ἀεὶ δ' ἐπ' ἔμοι πτηνὰ χέοντα βέλη,  
 εἰ καὶ με κτείναις λείψω φωνὴν προῖέντα  
 γράμματ'· Ἔρωτος ὄρα, ξεῖνε, μαιφονίην.

O TYRANT LOVE, list to my suppliant lay !

On me alone thou pourest all thy darts,

To me thou bringest torture and dismay,

And mercifully sparest other hearts.

I prithee, pity then my sleepless plight !

Charm Heliodora's vision from my brain.

For, if I'm killed, with dying hand I'll write :

“ Look, stranger, on the man whom Love has slain ! ”

## XXVIII

## LOVE AT AUCTION

MELEAGER

πωλείσθω καὶ ματρὸς ἔτ' ἐν κόλποισι καθεύδων,  
     πωλείσθω· τί δέ μοι τὸ θρασὺ τοῦτο τρέφειν;  
 καὶ γὰρ σιμὸν ἔφν καὶ ὑπόπτερον, ἄκρα δ' ὄνυξιν  
     κνίξει, καὶ κλαῖον πολλὰ μεταξὺ γελᾷ·  
 πρὸς δ' ἔτι λοιπὸν ἄτρεπτον, αἰείαλον, ὄξυν̄ δεδορκός,  
     ἄγριον οὐδ' αὐτῇ μητρὶ φίλῃ τιθασόν,  
 πάντα τέρας· τοίγαρ πεπράσεται· εἴ τις ἀπόπλους  
     ἔμπορος ὠνεῖσθαι παῖδα θέλει προσίτω.  
 καίτοι λίσσετ' ἰδὸν δεδακρυμένος· οὐ σ' ἔτι πωλῶ·  
     θάρσει· Ζηνοφίλα σύντροφος ᾧδε μένε.



WHILST slumbering on his mother's breast

Let Love be sold—I will not rear him.

He's useless, tried by any test

That can to men or maids endear him.

He's snub-nosed, winged, his nails can ravage,

He laughs, he's wild as any hawk.

To his own mother he's a savage,

And then he never stops his talk.

Perchance some sailor wants a slave,

Seafaring men are always bold,

But little is the price I crave,

To him the monster shall be sold.

Yet stay! He begs me to desist,

And tries to mitigate my hate.

He weeps. His tears I can't resist.

Let him remain and live with Kate.

## XXIX

## THE BURDEN OF YOUTH

ASCLEPIADES

οὐκ εἶμ' οὐδ' ἑτέων δύο κείκοσι, καὶ κοπιῶ ζῶν·  
 ὤρωτες, τί κακὸν τοῦτο; τί με φλέγετε;  
 ἦν γὰρ ἐγὼ τι πάθω, τί ποιήσετε; δῆλον, Ἔρωτες,  
 ὡς τὸ πάρος παίξεσθ' ἄφρονες ἀστραγάλοις.

THOUGH not two-and-twenty I'm weary of life,  
 Oh Love! why misuse me and give me such pain?  
 When I'm dead, will you cease from your pitiless strife?  
 No. You'll rattle your dice-box o'er those who remain.

## XXX

## LOVE'S MASTERDOM

MELEAGER

δεινὸς Ἔρως, δεινός· τί δὲ τὸ πλέον, ἦν πάλιν εἶπω  
καὶ πάλιν, οἰμώζων πολλάκι, δεινὸς Ἔρως;  
ἦ γὰρ ὁ παῖς τούτοισι γελᾷ, καὶ πυκνὰ κακισθεὶς  
ἤδεται, ἦν δ' εἶπω λοίδορα, καὶ τρέφεται·  
θαῦμα δέ μοι, πῶς ἄρα διὰ γλαυκοῖο φανείσα  
κύματος, ἐξ ὑγροῦ, Κύπρι, σὺ πῦρ τέτοκας.

DREADFUL is Love! With piteous cry  
Again I raise my sad lament.  
But what avails it, when each sigh  
To him is food and nourishment?  
He mocks me when I weep and moan.  
Scorched by his darts, I oft inquire  
How Venus, born of Ocean's foam,  
Herself gave birth to burning fire?

## XXXI

## LOVE THE CONQUEROR

MELEAGER

*κεῖμαι· λάξ ἐπίβαινε κατ' αὐχένος, ἄγριε δαῖμον·  
 οἶδά σε, ναὶ μὰ θεούς, καὶ βαρὺν ὄντα φέρειν·  
 οἶδα καὶ ἔμπυρα τόξα· βαλὼν δ' ἐπ' ἐμὴν φρένα πυρσοῦς  
 οὐ φλέξεις ἤδη· πᾶσα γὰρ ἐστί τέφρη.*

AH, cruel Love ! I know thy might,  
 Yet still thy fiery darts I'll hinder.  
 Thou canst not set my soul alight,  
 Already it is burnt to cinder.

II  
DEDICATION



## XXXII

## TO APHRODITE, BY LAIS

PLATO

ἡ σοβαρὸν γελάσασα καθ' Ἑλλάδος, ἡ τὸν ἐραστῶν  
 ἐσμὸν ἐνὶ προθύροις Λαῖς ἔχουσα νέων,  
 τῇ Παφίῃ τὸ κάτοπτρον· ἐπεὶ τοίῃ μὲν ὀρᾶσθαι  
 οὐκ ἐθέλω, οἷη δ' ἦν πάρος οὐ δύναμαι.

I, LAIS, who enthralled the Grecian youth,  
 To Venus give this glass, which tells the truth.  
 I will not face the tell-tale mirror more,  
 And why? I see not what I saw of yore.





III  
EPITAPHS



## XXXIII

ON THE SPARTANS AT  
THERMOPYLAE <sup>1</sup>

SIMONIDES

ὦ ξεῖν', ἄγγελον Λακεδαιμονίοις ὅτι τῆδε  
κείμεθα τοῖς κείνων ῥήμασι πειθόμενοι.

O STRANGER ! say that, honouring her behest,  
Here the remains of Sparta's warriors rest.

<sup>1</sup> There are a great many translations of this celebrated epitaph. Symonds (*The Greek Poets*, ii. p. 289) says that none are "very good." "The difficulty lies in the word ῥήμασι. Is this equivalent to ῥήτραις, as Cicero, who renders it by *legibus*, seems to think? Or is it the same as *orders*?" So far as the translation of the word is concerned, I venture to suggest "behest," but I greatly doubt if any translation can do justice to the original. I am very conscious of the extent to which the version given above fails in this respect.

## XXXIV

## THE PALL OF LEONIDAS

PHILIPPUS

πουλὸν Λεωνίδεω κατίδων δέμας αὐτοδαΐκτου  
 Ξέρξης ἐχλαίνου φάρεϊ πορφορέω.  
 κήκ νεκύων δ' ἤχησεν ὁ τᾶς Σπάρτας πολὺς ἥρωσ·  
 οὐδέχομαι προδύταις μισθὸν ὀφειλόμενον·  
 ἄσπις ἐμοὶ τύμβου κόσμος μέγας· αἶρε τὰ Περσῶν  
 χήξω κεῖς Ἀίδην ὡς Λακεδαιμόνιος.

THE Persian threw his mantle o'er the grave  
 Whereon his shame was writ.  
 Then did the hero turn,  
 And proudly cried, "I spurn  
 Your Asian tribute. Let my shield and glaive.  
 Of which in sunlit earth you felt the might,  
 Be still my pall in death's eternal night.  
 I lived a Spartan. In the realms beneath  
 I still am true to Sparta, e'en in death."

## XXXV

ON THE DEAD IN AN UNKNOWN  
BATTLE

MNASALCAS

οἶδε πάτραν, πολύδακρυν ἐπ' αὐχένι δεσμὸν ἔχουσαν,  
 ῥύομενοι δνοφερὰν ἀμφεβύλοντο κόνιν,  
 ἄρννται δ' ἀρετᾶς αἶνον μέγαν. ἀλλὰ τις ἀστῶν  
 τούσδ' ἐσιδὼν θνάσκειν τλάτω ὑπὲρ πατρίδος.

FROM off their native land they struck the servile chain,  
 Nor struck in vain.  
 In dust they lie.  
 Mark, patriot, well ! Thine own dear native land  
 Will send forth her command.  
 Then dare to die !

XXXVI  
 ON THE DEAD IN A BATTLE IN  
 BOEOTIA

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*ὦ Χρόνε παντοίων θνητοῖς πανεπίσκοπε δαῖμον,  
 ἄγγελος ἡμετέρων πᾶσι γενοῦ παθέων,  
 ὡς ἱερὰν σώζειν πειρώμενοι Ἑλλάδα χώραν  
 Βοιωτῶν κλεινοῖς θνήσκομεν ἐν δαπέδοις.*

O TIME, that seest all and canst not die !  
 Let all men know why in this tomb we lie.  
 To save our sacred country we were slain,  
 And lie for ever on Boeotia's plain.

## XXXVII

## ON A SLAIN WARRIOR

ANACREON

*καρτερὸς ἐν πολέμοις Τιμόκριτος οὐ τόδε σᾶμα·  
 Ἄρης δ' οὐκ ἀγαθῶν φείδεται, ἀλλὰ κακῶν.*

TIMOCRITUS lies here. Mars takes the brave,  
 And spares the coward for a nameless grave.

## XXXVIII

## ON A SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

PLATO

*ναυηγού τάφος εἰμί· ὁ δ' ἀντίον ἐστὶ γεωργού·  
ὡς ἀλλὴ καὶ γαίῃ ξυνὸς ὑπεστ' Ἀΐδης.*

SHIPWRECKED, I lost my life upon the sea.

Who sleeps beside me gained his daily bread  
Upon a farm ; but, following Death's decree,  
Sailors and landsmen meet amongst the dead.



## XXXIX

## ON A SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

THEODORIDES

*ναυηγού τάφος εἰμί· σὺ δὲ πλέε· καὶ γὰρ ὄθ' ἡμεῖς  
ὠλόμεθ', αἱ λοιπαὶ νῆες ἐποντοπόρου.*

SHIPWRECKED was I, but fear not thou to sail.  
When we were lost, others rode out the gale.

## XL

## ON A SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*ναυτίλε, μὴ πεύθου τίνος ἐνθάδε τύμβος ὄδ' εἰμί,  
ἀλλ' αὐτὸς πόντου τύγχανε χρηστοτέρου.*

No matter who I was ; but may the sea  
To you prove kindlier than it was to me.

## XLI

ON THE EMPTY TOMB OF ONE  
LOST AT SEA

GLAUCUS

οὐ κόνις οὐδ' ὀλίγον πέτρης βάρος, ἀλλ' Ἐρασίππου  
 ἦν ἐσορᾶς αὕτη πᾶσα θάλασσα τάφος·  
 ὤλετο γὰρ σὺν νηϊ· τὰ δ' ὀστέα πού ποτ' ἐκείνου  
 πύθεται, αἰθυίαις γνωστὰ μόναις ἐνέπειν.

No flimsy stone stands o'er Nicanor dead,  
 With ship and crew he sank beneath the surge.  
 The weight of ocean lies above his head,  
 The screaming sea-gulls sang his funeral dirge.

## XLII

ON THE EMPTY TOMB OF ONE  
LOST AT SEA

DAMAGETUS

καί ποτε Θυμώδης, τὰ παρ' ἐλπίδα κήδεα κλαίων,  
 παιδὶ Λύκῳ κενεὸν τοῦτον ἔχευε τάφον·  
 οὐδὲ γὰρ ὀθνεῖην ἔλαχεν κόριν, ἀλλὰ τις ἀκτῆ  
 Θυνιάς, ἣ νήσων Πουτιάδων τις ἔχει,  
 ἔνθ' ὃ γέ που πάντων κτερέων ἄτερ ὀστέα φαίνει  
 γυμνὸς ἐπ' ἀξείνου κείμενος αἰγιαλοῦ.

UNLOOKED-FOR woes the cruel gods have sent  
To old Thymodes ; a dear son he weeps.  
To Lycus has he reared this monument,  
Unknowing where the wave-tossed body sleeps.  
For him no grave was dug with loving hand,  
No train of mourners decked his funeral pile.  
His bones lie bleaching on a foreign strand,  
On some far Thynian beach or Pontic isle.

## XLIII

## ON A WAYSIDE TOMB

NICIAS

Ἰζεν ὑπ' αἰγείροισιν, ἐπεὶ κάμες, ἐνθάδ', ὀδίτα,  
καὶ πῖθ' ἄσσον ἰὼν πίδακος ἀμετέρας,  
μνῆσαι δὲ κρίναν καὶ ἀπόπροθι, ἂν ἐπὶ Γίλλῳ  
Σῆμος ἀποφθιμένῳ παιδὶ παριδρύεται.

REST, traveller, beneath these quivering leaves,  
Drink of the spring, and, in all future years,  
Remember that a sorrowing father grieves,  
And builds a fountain where he sheds his tears.

XLIV  
ON A BABY

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ἄρτι με γευόμενον ζωᾶς βρέφος ἤρπασε δαίμων  
οὐκ οἶδ' εἴτ' ἀγαθῶν αἴτιος εἶτε κακῶν·  
ἀπλήρωτ' Ἄϊδα, τί με νήπιον ἤρπασας ἐχθρῶς ;  
τί σπεύδεις ; οὐ σοὶ πάντες ὀφειλόμεθα ;

DEATH waited on me at my birth,  
And snatched me from the joys of earth.  
I know not if 'twere well for me  
Or ill, that pitiless decree.  
Insatiate Death ! Why move so fast ?  
Are we not all thine own at last ?

XLV  
ON A CHILD OF FIVE

LUCIAN

*παῖδά με πενταέτηρον ἀκηδέα θυμὸν ἔχοντα  
νηλειῆς Ἀΐδης ἤρπασε Καλλίμαχον·  
ἀλλὰ με μὴ κλαίεις· καὶ γὰρ βιότοιο μετέσχον  
παύρου, καὶ παύρων τῶν βιότοιο κακῶν.*

AT five years old my infant spirit fled,  
But mourn me not, although my time was brief.  
I knew no earthly joys, but with the dead,  
I glory that I knew no earthly grief.



## XLVI

## FREEDOM IN DEATH

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*Ζωσίμη ἢ πρὶν ἐοῦσα μόνῳ τῷ σώματι δούλη  
καὶ τῷ σώματι νῦν εὔρεν ἐλευθερίην.*

ZOSIME, cursed with serfdom from the womb,  
Found Life in Death, and freedom in the tomb.



IV  
LITERATURE AND ART



## XLVII

## ERINNA

LEONIDAS OF TARENTUM

*παρθενικὴν νεαοιδὸν ἐν ὑμνοπόλοισι μέλισσαν*

*Ἡρινναν Μουσῶν ἄνθεα δρεπτομένην*

*Ἄιδας εἰς ὑμέναιον ἀνάρπασεν· ἧ ῥα τόδ' ἔμφρων*

*εἶπ' ἐτύμως ἅ παις· βάσκανος ἔσσ' Ἄϊδα.*

ERINNA, songstress of the honeyed lay,  
 Was wooed by Death, and could not say him nay.  
 Still the wise maiden, with her parting breath,  
 True to the Muses, sang "Ah! envious Death!"

## XLVIII

## ANACREON'S GRAVE

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ὦ ξέεε, τόνδε τάφον τὸν Ἀνακρείοντος ἀμείβων  
 σπείσόν μοι παριών· εἰμὶ γὰρ οἰνοπότης.

POUR a libation, stranger, as you pass.  
 It is Anacreon's tomb. He loved his glass.

XLIX  
POPULAR SONGS

LUCILIUS

τέθνηκ' Εὐτυχίδης ὁ μελογράφος· οἱ κατὰ γαίαν  
 φεύγετ'· ἔχων ῥῶδὰς ἔρχεται Εὐτυχίδης·  
 καὶ κιθάρας αὐτῷ διετάξατο συγκατακαῦσαι  
 δώδεκα, καὶ κίστας εἰκοσίπεντε νόμων.  
 νῦν ὑμῖν ὁ Χάρων ἐπελήλυθε· ποῖ τις ἀπέλθη  
 λοιπόν, ἐπεὶ χᾶδην Εὐτυχίδης κατέχει ;

EUTYCHIDES is gone below.

Fly, shades ! 'Tis well that ye should know  
 He brings some twenty chests of verse,  
 And lyres twelve. They'll prove a curse.  
 Where can poor mortals rest in peace  
 Whene'er their earthly labours cease,  
 Now that Eutychides pervades  
 With song and lyre the very shades ?

## L

## THE REED PEN

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ἤμην ἀχρεῖον κάλαμος φυτόν, ἐκ γὰρ ἐμείο  
οὐ σὺκ', οὐ μῆλον φύεται, οὐ σταφυλή·  
ἀλλὰ μ' ἀνήρ ἐμύθησ' Ἑλικωνίδα, λεπτὰ τορήσας  
χείλεα καὶ στεινὸν ῥοῦν ὀχετευσάμενος,  
ἐκ δὲ τοῦ εὖτε πίοιμι μέλαν ποτόν, ἔνθεος οἶα  
πᾶν ἔπος ἀφθέγκτω τῶδε λαλῶ στόματι.



THE luscious fig hung pendent on the tree,  
The clustering grape gave wine to fire and cheer.  
Meanwhile I grew, in staid humility,  
An humble reed upon the wind-swept mere.  
Man pierced my lips, and I became the slave  
Of kings and poets, orators and sages.  
With voiceless mouth I speak, and what they gave  
I give in turn to all succeeding ages.

## LI

## ALEXANDRIANISM

CALLIMACHUS

ἐχθαίρω τὸ ποίημα τὸ κυκλικόν, οὐδὲ κελεύθῳ  
 χαίρω, τίς πολλοὺς ᾧδε καὶ ᾧδε φέρει·  
 μισῶ καὶ περίφοιτον ἐρώμενον, οὐτ' ἀπὸ κρήνης  
 πίνω· σικχαίνω πάντα τὰ δημόσια.

I HATE the road that all men tread,  
 The cyclic verse I doom to perish.  
 My direst curses on the head  
 Of all that most men love and cherish.  
 All these things rouse my gall and bile,  
 I hate the common fountain's savour,  
 I hate the Alexandrian style,  
 But most I hate the people's favour.

## LII

## ON A LOVE PLOUGHING

MOSCHUS

λαμπάδα θεὸς καὶ τόξα, βοηλάτιν εἴλετο ῥάβδον  
 οὐλος Ἔρως, πῆρην δ' εἶχε κατωμαδίην,  
 καὶ ζεύξας ταλαεργὸν ὑπὸ ζυγὸν αὐχένα ταύρων  
 ἔσπειρεν Διοῦς αὐλακα πυροφόρον,  
 εἶπε δ' ἄνω βλέψας αὐτῷ Διὶ· πληῆσον ἀρούρας,  
 μή σε τὸν Εὐρώπης βοῦν ὑπ' ἀροτρα βάλω.

HIS torch and bow renounced, the potent god  
 Of Love binds patient oxen to the yoke,  
 With tender hands he wields the ploughman's rod,  
 And turns a furrow at each feeble stroke.  
 "O Zeus!" he cried, "now fill my granary full,  
 Yield tenfold produce to the seed I sow.  
 Bethink thee that erstwhile thou wast a bull,  
 Deny me, and I'll yoke thee to my plough."

LIII  
 ON A STATUE OF THE ARMED  
 VENUS

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Παλλὰς τὰν Κυθήρειαν ἔνοπλον ἔειπεν ἰδοῦσα,  
 Κύπρι, θέλεις οὕτως ἐς κρίσιν ἐρχόμεθα ;  
 ἢ δ' ἀπαλὸν γελάσασα· τί μοι σάκος ἀντίον αἶρειν :  
 εἰ γυμνὴ νικῶ, πῶς ὅταν ὄπλα λάβω ;

“ ARMED at the trial wilt thou take thy place ? ”

Asked Pallas, sternly. “ Aye, my naked charms,”  
 Smiled Venus, “ conquer all the human race ;  
 How will it be when I resort to arms ? ”

## LIV

ON THE CNIDIAN VENUS OF  
PRAXITELES

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*ἡ Κύπρις τὰν Κύπριν ἐνὶ Κνίδῳ εἶπεν ἰδοῦσα·  
φεῦ, φεῦ, ποῦ γυμνὴν εἶδέ με Πραξιτέλης:*

THE laughter-loving Queen of Pleasures  
Gazed at the work and blushing said,  
“How could a man know all my treasures—  
A man to whom I ne'er was wed?”

LV

## ON A SLEEPING ARIADNE

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ξέῖνοι, λαινέας μὴ ψάυετε τᾶς Ἀριάδνας  
μὴ καὶ ἀναθρώσκη Θησέα διζομένη.

TOUCH not the stone lest Ariadne move,  
And start again to seek her long-lost love.

LVI

## ON A NIOBE BY PRAXITELES

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*ἐκ ζωῆς με θεοὶ τεύξαν λίθον· ἐκ δὲ λίθοιο  
ζωὴν Πραξιτέλης ἔμπαλιν εἰργάσατο.*

THE gods turned me to stone, but now I live.  
Praxiteles could life to marble give.

## LVII

## DIANA OF EPHEBUS

## ANTIPATER

καὶ κρανίας Βαβυλῶνος ἐπίδρομον ἄρμασι τείχος,  
καὶ τὸν ἐπ' Ἄλφειῷ Ζᾶνα κατηυγασάμην,  
κάπων τ' αἰώρημα, καὶ Ἡελίοιο Κολοσσόν,  
καὶ μέγαν αἰπεινᾶν Πυραμίδων κάματον,  
μνᾶμα τε Μανσωλοῖο πελώριον· ἰλλ' ὅτ' ἐσεῖδον  
Ἄρτέμιδος νεφέων ἄχρι θέοντα δόμον,  
κεῖνα μὲν ἠμαύρετο· τί κεῖνα δέ; νόσφιν Ὀλύμπου  
Ἄλιος οὐδέν πω τοῖον ἐπηυγάσατο.



ON Babylon's walls the swift chariots can race,  
At Rhodes the Colossus may hallow an isle,  
The statue of Zeus is a marvel of grace,  
The folly of Pharaoh frowns down on the Nile.  
All these have I seen, but when awestruck I gaze  
On Artemis poised o'er her silvery shrine,  
I murmur : " Chaste Goddess ! I worship and praise !  
" The sun never shines on such glories as thine."



V  
RELIGION



## LVIII

## THE SERVICE OF GOD

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

τὴν Διὸς ἀμφίπολόν με Χελιδόνα, τὴν ἐπὶ βωμοῖς  
 σπένδειν ἀθανάτων γρήϋν ἐπισταμένην,  
 εὐτεκνον, ἀστονάχητον, ἔχει τάφος· οὐ γὰρ ἀμαυρῶς  
 δαίμονες ἡμετέρην ἔβλεπον εὐσεβίην.

PRIESTESS of Zeus, I worshipped at his shrine,  
 In my old age to him I raised my prayer.  
 With children blessed, no cankering grief was mine,  
 My simple piety was free from care.  
 Now in the tomb, where others cease from strife,  
 And seek repose from labour, tears, and sighs,  
 I gain the guerdon of a blameless life,  
 The gods beheld my work with undimmed eyes.

LIX  
 THE WATER OF PURITY

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*ἀγνὸς κεῖς τέμενος καθαρῶ, ξένε, δαίμονος ἔρχου  
 ψυχῆν, νυμφαίου νάματος ἀψάμενος·  
 ὡς ἀγαθοῖς κείται βαιὴ λιβάς, ἄνδρα δὲ φαῦλον  
 οὐδ' ἂν ὁ πᾶς νίψαι νάμασιν Ὀκεανός.*

STRANGER, approach, if with a hallowed soul  
 Thou seek'st the precincts of the awful shrine.  
 Take virgin water from the sacred bowl,  
 The temple shelters purity divine.  
 If thine own conscience tells a virtuous tale,  
 A few scant drops will make thee pure and glad,  
 But for the wicked nothing can avail,  
 For learn, not Ocean's self can cleanse the bad.

VI  
NATURE





## LX

## PASTORAL SOLITUDE

## SATYRUS

*ποιμενίαν ἄγλωσσος ἀν' ὀργάδα μέλπεται Ἄχὼ  
ἀντίθρον πτανοῖς ὑστερόφωνον ὄπα.*

ON this green slope resound no human words,  
Echo repeats the music of the birds.

## LXI

## THE RELEASE OF THE OX

ADDAEUS

αὐλακι καὶ γήρᾳ τετρυμένον ἐργατίνην βοῦν  
 "Ἄλκων οὐ φονίην ἤγαγε πρὸς κοπίδα,  
 αἰδεσθεῖς ἔργων· ὁ δέ που βαθέῃ ἐνὶ ποίῃ  
 μυκηθμοῖς ἀρότρου τέρπετ' ἐλευθερίῃ.

THE ox, rewarded for his pains,  
 Is spared the butcher's cruel stroke.  
 Now, lowing on the grassy plains,  
 He hymns his freedom from the yoke.

## LXII

## THE SHRINE BY THE SEA

ANYTE

Κύπριδος οὗτος ὁ χῶρος, ἐπεὶ φίλον ἔπλετο τήνα  
 αἰὲν ἀπ' ἠπείρου λαμπρὸν ὄρην πέλαγος  
 ὄφρα φίλον ναύτησι τελῆ πλόον· ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος  
 δειμαίνει, λιπαρὸν δερκόμενος ξόανον.

SEAWARDS the gentle Cyprian loves to gaze,  
 And call the sailor back to Love and Home.  
 Trembling, the loud-resounding billows praise  
 The goddess fair, who rose from out the foam.

## LXIII

## THE COMPLAINT OF THE CICALA

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

τίπτε με τὸν φιλέρημον ἀναιδέϊ ποιμένες ἄγρη  
 τέττιγα δροσερῶν ἔλκετ' ἀπ' ἀκρεμόνων,  
 τὴν Νυμφέων παροδίτιν ἀηδόνα κῆματι μέσσω  
 οὔρεσι καὶ σκιεραῖς ξουθὰ λαλεῦντα νάπαις ;  
 ἠνίδε καὶ κίχλην καὶ κόσσυφον, ἠνίδε τόσσους  
 ψᾶρας, ἀρουραίης ἄρπαγας εὐπορίας·  
 καρπῶν δηλητηήρας ἐλεῖν θέμις· ὄλλυτ' ἐκείνους·  
 φύλλων καὶ χλοερῆς τίς φθόνος ἐστὶ δρόσου ;

WHY, shepherds, why in cruel sport pursue  
The midday songster of the hill and dale?  
From silvery sprays I dash away the dew,  
The Nymphs call me their roadside nightingale.  
The thrushes, blackbirds, and a thievish throng  
Ravage thy fruit and plunder all thy sheaves.  
Destroy them, they of right to thee belong.  
Grudge not the harmless cricket dew and leaves.



VII  
THE FAMILY





## LXIV

## THE GIRL'S CUP

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS

*χείλος Ἀνικῆτεια τὸ χρύσειον εἰς ἐμὲ τέγγει·  
ἀλλὰ παρασχοίμην καὶ πόμα νυμφίδιον.*

ARISTE wets her golden lip in me.  
If Hymen please, her bridal cup I'll be.

## LXV

## A ROSE IN WINTER

CRINAGORAS

εἶαρος ἦνθει μὲν τὸ πρὶν ῥόδα, νῦν δ' ἐνὶ μέσσω  
 χείματι πορφυρέας ἐσχάσαμεν κάλυκας  
 σῆ ἐπιμειδήσαντα γενεθλίῃ ἄσμενα τῆδε  
 ἠοί, νυμφιδίων ἀσσοτάτη λεχέων·  
 καλλίστης στεφθῆναι ἐπὶ κροτάφοισι γυναικὸς  
 λώϊον ἢ μίμνειν ἡρινὸν ἠέλιον.

ROSES till now have blossomed in the spring,  
Our crimson cups burst forth midst winter's snow.  
On this, thy birthday morn, we hither bring  
A smiling tribute to adorn thy brow.  
Thy bridal hour is near, and with delight  
For thy fair forehead we provide a wreath,  
'Tis better thus to bloom in winter's night,  
Than to await the tardy summer's breath.

## LXVI

## GOOD-BYE TO CHILDHOOD

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Τιμαρέτα πρὸ γάμοιο τὰ τύμπανα τήν τ' ἐρατεινήν  
 σφαῖραν, τόν τε κόμας ῥύτορα κεκρύφαλον,  
 τὰς τε κόρας, Λιμνάτι, κόρα κόρα, ὡς ἐπιεικές,  
 ἄνθετο, καὶ τὰ κορᾶν ἐνδύματ' Ἀρτέμιδι.  
 Λατώα, τὸ δὲ παιδὸς ὑπὲρ χέρα Τιμαρετείας  
 θηκαμένα σώζοις τὰν ὄσιαν ὀσίως.

HER tambourine and pretty ball,  
Her dolls she left, with all their dresses,  
Her playthings, whether great or small,  
The net which held her golden tresses.  
Sweet Chloe, on her marriage day,  
Renounced her happy childhood's pleasures.  
A maid should to a maiden pray,  
The Linnian Queen received her treasures.  
Daughter of Leto! listen as we pray,  
Shield her, and keep her pure from day to day.

## LXVII

## NUNC DIMITTIS

JOANNES BARBUCALLUS

*ἔς πόσιν ἀθρήσασα παρ' ἐσχατίης λίνα μοίρης  
 ἤνεσα καὶ χθονίους, ἤνεσα καὶ ζυγίους,  
 τοὺς μέν, ὅτι ζῶν λίπον ἀνέρα, τοὺς δ' ὅτι τοῖον·  
 ἀλλὰ πατήρ μίμνοι παισὶν ἐφ' ἡμετέροις.*

HOLDING my husband's hand with ebbing breath,  
 I praised the gods of Marriage and of Death,  
 These that I gave my love to such as he,  
 Those that he lives our children's stay to be.

## LXVIII

## THE WIFE'S PRAYER

ANTIPATER OF THESSALONICA

Βιθυνίς Κυθήρη με τειῆς ἀνεθήκατο, Κύπρι,  
 μορφῆς εἶδωλον λύγδινον εὐξαμένη·  
 ἀλλὰ σὺ τῇ μικκῇ μεγάλην χάριν ἀντιμερίζου,  
 ὡς ἔθος· ἀρκεῖται δ' ἀνδρὸς ὁμοφροσύνη.

SWEET Cyprian Queen, I vow to thee  
 Thy marble image. Hear me plead.  
 Give in return thy grace to me,  
 My husband's love is all I need.

## LXIX

## BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

JOANNES BARBUCALLUS

Πειθοῖ καὶ Παφίᾳ πακτὰν καὶ κηρία σίμβλων  
 τᾶς καλυκοστεφάνου νυμφίος Εὐρυνόμας  
 Ἐρμοφίλας ἀνέθηκεν ὁ βοκόλος· ἀλλὰ δέχεσθε  
 ἀντ' αὐτᾶς πακτάν, ἀντ' ἐμέθεν τὸ μέλι.

THE neat-herd and his bride, Eurynome,  
 Bring cheese of cream and honey of the bee.  
 May these Persuasion and the Paphian please,  
 From him take honey, and from her take cheese.



## LXX

## HOUSEHOLD HAPPINESS

AGATHIAS

τῇ Παφίῃ στεφάνους, τῇ Παλλάδι τὴν πλοκαμίδα,  
 Ἄρτέμιδι ζώνην ἄνθετο Καλλιρόῃ·  
 εὖρετο γὰρ μνηστήρα τὸν ἠθέλε, καὶ λάχεν ἦβην  
 σὴν φρόνα, καὶ τεκέων ἄρσεν ἔτικτε γένος.

CALLIRHOË brings the Paphian fair  
 These flowers ; Love a wooer found her.  
 Let Pallas take a tress of hair,  
 And Artemis the zone that bound her.  
 These kindly three, who reign above,  
 Lavished their gifts when she was wed ;  
 Blameless, she gained a husband's love,  
 Male children blessed her marriage bed.

## LXXI

## THE UNBROKEN HOME

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*αὐτῷ καὶ τεκέεσσι γυναικί τε τύμβον ἔδειμεν  
 Ἀνδροτίων· οὐπω δ' οὐδενός εἰμι τάφος.  
 οὕτω καὶ μείναιμι πολὺν χρόνον· εἰ δ' ἄρα καὶ δεῖ,  
 δεξαίμην ἐν ἐμοὶ τοὺς προτέρους προτέρους.*

THIS tomb will hold Androtion dead,  
 His children and his loving wife.  
 May Death first take the hoary head,  
 And spare bright youth to joy in life.

## LXXII

## THE BROKEN HOME

BIANOR

Θειονόης ἔκλαιον ἐμῆς μόρον, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ παιδὸς  
 ἐλπίσι κουφοτέρας ἔστενον εἰς ὀδύνας·  
 νῦν δέ με καὶ παιδὸς φθονερὴ τις ἐνόσφισε Μοῖρα·  
 φεῦ βρέφος, ἐψεύσθην καὶ σὲ τὸ λειπόμενον.  
 Περσεφόνη, τόδε πατρὸς ἐπὶ θρήνοισιν ἄκουσον,  
 θὲς βρέφος ἐς κόλπους μητρὸς ἀποιχομένης.

I MOURNED my dead Theionoë, but found  
 Some solace in the child the dear one left.  
 Now has my agony of grief been crowned,  
 The Fates have willed, and I am twice bereft.  
 Dread Queen that rulest o'er the realms of Dis !  
 Spurn not a sorrowing father's poor request,  
 Little it is I ask, but grant me this,  
 Lay thou the babe upon his mother's breast.

## LXXIII

## EARTH'S FELICITY

CARPHYLLIDES

μὴ μέμψῃ παριῶν τὰ μνήματά μου, παροδίτα,  
 οὐδὲν ἔχω θρήνων ἄξιον οὐδὲ θανῶν·  
 τέκνων τέκνα λέλοιπα· μιῆς ἀπέλαυσα γυναικὸς  
 συγγήρου· τρισσοῖς παισὶν ἔδωκα γάμους,  
 ἐξ ὧν πολλίκι παῖδας ἐμοῖς ἐνεκοίμισα κόλποις  
 οὐδενὸς οἰμώξας οὐ νόσον, οὐ θάνατον·  
 οἷ με κατασπείσαντες ἀπήμονα, τὸν γλυκὺν ὕπνον  
 κοιμᾶσθαι χώρην πέμψαν ἐπ' εὐσεβέων.

TRAVELLER, who at this stone may chance to pause  
To mourn the lot of him who slumbers here,  
Spare thy lament, nor weep without a cause,  
For e'en in death I claim no pitying tear.  
Happy my lot whilst in the realms above,  
With one fond spouse I passed a blameless life,  
Three sons I saw, the offspring of our love,  
And lived to give to each a loving wife.  
Babes, fond and dear, the triple marriage gave,  
I lulled them oft to sleep upon my breast,  
With painless tears they laid me in the grave  
To slumber in the regions of the blest.



VIII  
BEAUTY





## LXXIV

## COMING THROUGH THE RYE

RHIANUS

ἦ ῥά νύ τοι, Κλεόνικε, δι' ἀτραπιτοῖο κίοντι  
 στεινῆς ἠντήσανθ' αἱ λιπαραὶ Χάριτες,  
 καί σε ποτὶ ῥοδέησιν ἐπηχύναντο χέρεσσιν,  
 κοῦρε, πεποίησαι δ' ἠλίκος ἔσσι χάρις.  
 τηλόθι μοι μάλα χαῖρε· πυρὸς δ' οὐκ ἀσφαλὲς ἄσσον  
 ἔρπειν ἀνηρήν, ἃ φίλος, ἀνθέρικα.

METHINKS, when gazing on thy heavenly charms,  
 The Graces met thee where thou could'st not move,  
 Claspng thee fondly in their rosy arms,  
 They gave thee all the attributes of love.  
 On thee, dear heart, they lavished all their grace.  
 Pleased, from afar I hail the vision bright,  
 I dare not view too near thy beauteous face,  
 The stalk, when dry, is easily alight.



IX  
FATE AND CHANGE



## LXXV

## THE FLOWER OF YOUTH

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS

Ἴσιὰς ἠδύπνευστε, καὶ εἰ δεκάκις μύρον εὔδεις,  
 ἔγρεο καὶ δέξαι χερσὶ φίλαις στέφανον  
 ὃν νῦν μὲν θάλλοντα, μαραινόμενον δὲ πρὸς ἡῶ  
 ὄψαι, ὑμετέρης σύμβολον ἡλικίης.

AWAKE, my sweet-breathed Isias, whilst 'tis time,  
 The flowers I bring will fade at dawn of day.  
 Even so thy fleeting beauty, at its prime,  
 Will shine for one brief hour and then decay.

## LXXVI

## WITHERED BLOSSOMS

STRATO

εἰ κάλλει καυχᾶ, γίγνωσχ' ὅτι καὶ ῥόδον ἀνθεῖ,  
 ἀλλὰ μαρανθὲν ἄφνω σὺν κοπρίοις ἐρίφη·  
 ἄνθος γὰρ καὶ κάλλος ἴσον χρόνον ἐστὶ λαχόντα,  
 ταῦτα δ' ὁμῆ φθονέων ἐξεμάρανε χρόνος.

BOAST not, the rose is also fair,  
 It withers and is cast away.  
 Does envious Time the blossom spare?  
 Thou and the rose alike decay.

## LXXVII

## THE END OF DESIRE

## SECUNDUS

ἢ τὸ πάλαι Λαῖς πάντων βέλος, οὐκέτι Λαῖς  
 ἀλλ' ἐτέων φανερὴ πᾶσιν ἐγὼ Νέμεσις.  
 οὐ μὰ Κύπριν (τί δὲ Κύπρις ἐμοὶ πλέον ἢ ὅσον ὄρκος;) )  
 γνώριμον οὐδ' αὐτῇ Λαῖδι Λαῖς ἔτι.

LAIS, whose laughing eyes have pierced the heart  
 Of many a man, herself has felt the dart  
 Of cruel Time. He laid her beauty low.  
 Then, in her loveless solitude, she swore,  
 By Venus, that she knew herself no more,  
 And marvelled that the men had loved her so.

## LXXVIII

## HOARDED BEAUTY

STRATO

*εἰ μὲν γηράσκει τὸ καλόν, μετάδος πρὶν ἀπέλθῃ·  
εἰ δὲ μένει, τί φοβῆ τοῦθ' ὃ μένει διδόναι ;*

If beauty dies, then yield a share  
 Before it fades for evermore.  
 But if it lasts, my love, forbear  
 To treasure up an endless store.



## LXXIX

## CARPE DIEM

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*τὸ ρόδον ἀκμάζει βαιὸν χρόνον· ἦν δὲ παρέλθη,  
ζητῶν εὐρήσεις οὐ ρόδον ἀλλὰ βάτον.*

“GATHER the rose-buds whilst you may,”

The poet sings in tones forlorn.

Should you a few brief hours delay,

You'll find no rose-bud, but a thorn.

## LXXX

## DUST AND ASHES

ASCLEPIADES

φειδῶ παρθενίης, καὶ τί πλέον ; οὐ γὰρ ἐς "Αιδην  
 ἔλθοῦσ' εὐρήσεις τὸν φιλέοντα, κόρη·  
 ἐν ζωῶσι τὰ τερπνὰ τὰ Κύπριδος· ἐν δ' Ἄχέροντι  
 ὀστέα καὶ σποδιή, παρθένε, κεισόμεθα.

WHY so coy, ye lovely maids ?  
 Lovers thrive not in the shades.  
 Here on earth is Love's delight,  
 There are dust and bones and night.

## LXXXI

## A STORY OF THE SEA

ANTIPATER OF THESSALONICA

κλασθείσης ποτὲ νηὸς ἐν ὕδατι, δῆριον ἔθεντο  
 δισσοὶ ὑπὲρ μούνης μαρνάμενοι σανίδος.  
 τύψε μὲν Ἀνταγόρης Πεισίστρατον· οὐ νεμεσητόν,  
 ἦν γὰρ ὑπὲρ ψυχῆς· ἀλλ' ἐμέλησε Δίκη.  
 νήχεθ' ὁ μὲν, τὸν δ' εἶλε κύων ἄλός· ἡ παναλίστωρ  
 κηρῶν οὐδ' ὑγρῷ παύεται ἐν πελάγει.

Two sailors, when the vessel sank,  
 Clung to one plank their lives to save.  
 Tom foully struck Jack off the plank,  
 And doomed him to a watery grave.  
 Avenging Justice eyed the strife,  
 And punished quick. The sequel mark.  
 Jack swam ashore and saved his life,  
 Whilst Tom was swallowed by a shark.

## LXXXII

## THE CASKET OF PANDORA

MACEDONIUS

Πανδώρης ὀρόων γελώω πίθον, οὐδὲ γυναῖκα  
     μέμφομαι, ἀλλ' αὐτῶν τὰ πτερὰ τῶν Ἄγαθῶν·  
 ὡς γὰρ ἐπ' Οὐλύμποιο μετὰ χθονὸς ἦθεα πάσης  
     πρωτῶνται, πίπτειν καὶ κατὰ γῆν ὄφελον.  
 ἢ δὲ γυνὴ μετὰ πῶμα κατωχρήσασα παρειὰς  
     ᾧλεσεν ἀγλαΐην ὧν ἔφερεν χαρίτων,  
 ἀμφοτέρων δ' ἤμαρτεν ὁ νῦν βίος, ὅττι καὶ αὐτὴν  
     γηράσκουσιν ἔχει, καὶ πίθος οὐδὲν ἔχει.

As on Pandora's jar my eyes alight  
I blame the Blessings, not the curious maid.  
These through the starry Heavens wing their flight,  
Alas! on ruined Earth they should have stayed.  
But she, with pallid cheeks and frightened stare,  
Is doubly punished for her venial sin,  
Her beauty joins the Blessings in the air,  
Whilst, save for Hope, the jar is void within.

## LXXXIII

## LIGHT LOVE

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS

ἠραστή, πλουτῶν, Σωσικρατες· ἀλλὰ πενής ὢν  
 οὐκέτ' ἐρᾷ· λιμὸς φάρμακον οἶον ἔχει·  
 ἧ δὲ πάρος σε καλεῦσα μύρον καὶ τερπνὸν Ἄδωνι  
 Μηνοφίλα, νῦν σου τοῦνομα πυνθάνεται.  
 τίς πόθεν εἰς ἀνδρῶν; πόθι τοι πόλις; ἢ μίλις ἔγνωσ  
 τοῦτ' ἔπος, ὡς οὐδεὶς οὐδὲν ἔχοντι φίλος.

WHEN rich, Sosicrates, a crew  
 Of hungry friends beset your portals.  
 Now you are shunned by all you knew,  
 O least befriended amongst mortals !  
 Your mistress, who used every word  
 Of love, and meant it for a while,<sup>1</sup>  
 Now swears your name she never heard,  
 Or asks your city with a smile.  
 Surely the case is clearly proved,  
 Learn what these sorry truths portend :  
 The rich man is by all beloved,  
 The poor man never has a friend.

<sup>1</sup> Μηροφίλα.

LXXXIV  
CORINTH

ANTIPATER OF SIDON

ποῦ τὸ περίβλεπτον κάλλος σέο, Δωρὶ Κόρινθε :  
 ποῦ στεφάναι πύργων, ποῦ τὰ πάλαι κτέανα ;  
 ποῦ νηοὶ μακάρων, ποῦ δώματα, ποῦ δὲ δάμαρτες  
 Σισύφιαι λαῶν θ' αἶ ποτε μυριάδες ;  
 οὐδὲ γὰρ οὐδ' ἴχνος, πολυκάμμορε, σείο λέλειπται.  
 πάντα δὲ συμμάρψας ἐξέφαγεν πόλεμος.  
 μῦναι ἀπόρθητοι Νηρηίδες Ὀκεανοῖο  
 κούραι σῶν ἀχέων μίμνομεν ἀλκύνες.



WHERE is thy beauty, Dorian Corinth, where  
The crown of towers, which of old was thine ?  
The halls once crowded by the brave and fair,  
The throng which flocked to many a gorgeous shrine ?  
Thy beauty's wrecked. It ne'er can rise again,  
'Tis wasted by the stern, relentless foe,  
And only we, the Nymphs from out the main,  
Abide, like halcyons, wailing o'er thy woe.

## LXXXV

## TROY

## AGATHIAS

εἰ μὲν ἀπὸ Σπάρτης τις ἔφυς, ξένε, μή με γελάσσης.  
 οὐ γὰρ ἐμοὶ μούνη ταῦτα τέλεσσε Τύχη·  
 εἰ δέ τις ἐξ Ἀσίης, μὴ πένθειε, Δαρδανικοῖς γὰρ  
 σκήπτροις Αἰνεαδῶν πᾶσα νένευκε πόλις·  
 εἰ δὲ θεῶν τεμένη καὶ τείχεα καὶ ναετῆρας  
 ζηλήμων δήϊων ἐξεκένωσεν Ἄρης,  
 εἰμὶ πάλιν βασίλεια· σὺ δ' ὄ τέκος, ἄτρομε Ῥώμη,  
 βάλλε καθ' Ἑλλήνων σῆς ζυγόδεσμα δίκης.

O SPARTAN, hold me not in scorn,  
Others have shared my hapless plight.  
And, thou of Asia, cease to mourn,  
Thy cities know the Dardan might.  
Although the foe has razed my home,  
My queenly rank shall never cease,  
For thou, my child, Imperial Rome,  
Shalt lay thy heavy yoke on Greece.

## LXXXVI

## FORTUNE'S PLAYTHING

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*οὐκ ἐθέλουσα Τύχη σε προήγαγεν, ἀλλ' ἵνα δείξῃ  
ὡς ὅτι μέχρι σοῦ πάντα ποιεῖν δύναται.*

OH! thank not Fortune. She but wished to show  
Her might in raising one who stood so low.

## LXXXVII

## TENANTS AT WILL

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ἀγρὸς Ἀχαιμενίδου γενόμενῃ ποτέ, νῦν δὲ Μενίππου,  
καὶ πάλιν ἐξ ἑτέρου βήσομαι εἰς ἕτερον·  
καὶ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος ἔχειν μέ ποτ' ᾔετο, καὶ πάλιν οὗτος  
οἴεται· εἰμὶ δ' ὄλωσ' οὐδενός, ἀλλὰ Τύχης.

I ONCE was called the field of John,  
Until he sold me to his brother,  
Each in his turn thought me his own,  
And so I pass from one to other.  
But who the ownership can claim  
I know, and laugh at man's delusion,  
Fortune the Fickle is her name,  
She covers all men with confusion.

## LXXXVIII

## PARTING COMPANY

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*Ἐλπίς καὶ σὺ Τύχη μέγα χαίρετε· τὸν λιμέν' εὔρον·  
οὐδὲν ἐμοὶ χ' ὑμῖν· παίζετε τοὺς μετ' ἐμέ.*

DELUSIVE Hope, and Fortune too,  
Farewell! I've reached the port.  
There's nothing now 'twixt me and you,  
Of others make a sport.

X

THE HUMAN COMEDY





## LXXXIX

## THE EMPTY JAR

ERATOSTHENES

οἰνοπότας Ξενοφῶν κενεὸν πίθον ἄνθετο, Βάκχε·  
δέχνησα δ' εὐμενέως· ἄλλο γὰρ οὐδὲν ἔχει.

BACCHUS, receive this empty jar. 'Tis thine.  
'Tis all that Bibo hath not spent on wine.

XC

## AN UNGROUNDED SCANDAL

LUCILIUS

*τὰς τρίχας, ὦ Νίκυλλά, τινες βάπτειν σε λέγουσιν  
ὡς σὺ μελαινοτάτας ἐξ ἀγορᾶς ἐπρίω.*

You dye those locks of raven hue,  
Nicylla—so 'tis said or thought.  
And this most certainly is true,  
No blacker hair is ever bought.

## XCI

## THE POPULAR SINGER

NICARCHUS

νυκτικόραξ ἄδει θανατηφόρον· ἀλλ' ὅταν ἄση  
 Δημόφιλος, θνήσκει καὺτὸς ὁ νυκτικόραξ.

'TIS thought that those must surely die  
 Who hear the dread night-raven's cry.  
 Demophilus, 'tis sometimes said,  
 Can even sing the raven dead.

## XCII

## SIMON THE OCULIST

NICARCHUS

ἦν τιν' ἔχης ἐχθρόν, Διούσιε, μὴ καταράσῃ  
 τὴν Ἴσιν τούτῳ μηδὲ τὸν Ἄρποκράτην,  
 μηδ' εἴ τις τυφλοὺς ποιεῖ θεός, ἀλλὰ Σίμωνα·  
 καὶ γνώσῃ τί θεὸς καὶ τί Σίμων δύναται.

CALL not on any deity to strike

The foe whom you would doom to blindness,  
 But call on blundering Simon ; all would like  
 God's anger more than Simon's kindness.

## XCIII

## SCIENTIFIC SURGERY

NICARCHUS

*χειρουργῶν ἔσφαξεν Ἀκεστορίδην Ἀγέλαος·  
ζῶν γὰρ χολεύειν, φησίν, ἔμελλε τάλας.*

THE patient surely had been lame for life,  
So Scalpel, pitying, killed him with his knife.

## XCIV

## SOOTHSAYING

NICARCHUS

εἰς Ῥόδον εἰ πλεύσει τις Ὀλυμπικὸν ἦλθεν ἐρωτῶν  
 τὸν μάντιν, καὶ πῶς πλεύσεται ἀσφαλῆως·  
 χῶ μάντις, πρῶτον μὲν, ἔφη, καινὴν ἔχε τὴν ναῦν,  
 καὶ μὴ χειμῶνος, τοῦ δὲ θέρους ἀνάγου·  
 τοῦτο γὰρ ἂν ποιῆς, ἤξεις κακεῖσε καὶ ὧδε  
 ἂν μὴ πειρατῆς ἐν πελάγει σε λάβῃ.

“SAY, prophet, shall I reach my native isle?”

The anxious sailor asked, and heaved a sigh.

The hoary humbug scanned the stars awhile,

Then mumbled through his beard this sage reply :

“Buy a new ship ; in summer thou should’st sail.

Wait till the winter’s boisterous storms are over.

To reach thine island home thou canst not fail,

Unless, perchance, thou’rt captured by a rover.”

## XCV

## THE ASTROLOGER'S FORECAST

AGATHIAS

Καλλιγένης ἀγροΐκος ὅτ' σπόρον ἔμβαλε γαίῃ  
 οἶκον Ἀριστοφάνους ἦλθεν ἐς ἀστρολόγου  
 ἤτεε δ' ἐξερέειν εἴπερ θέρος αἴσιον αὐτῷ  
 ἔσται καὶ σταχύων ἄφθονος εὐπορίῃ.  
 ὃς δὲ λαβὼν ψηφίδας, ὑπὲρ πίνακός τε πυκάζων,  
 δάκτυλά τε γνάμπτων φθέγγετο Καλλιγένει·  
 εἶπερ ἐπομβρηθῆ τὸ ἀρούριον ὅσσον ἀπόχρη  
 μηδέ τιν' ὑλαίην τέξεται ἀνθοσύνην,  
 μηδέ πάγος ῥήξη τὴν αὐλακα μηδέ χαλάζη  
 ἄκρον ἀποδρυφθῆ δράγματος ὀρτυμένου  
 μηδέ κίμας κείρησι τὰ λήια μηδέ τιν' ἄλλην  
 ἤερος ἢ γαίης ὄψεται ἀμπλακίην,  
 ἰσθλὸν σοι τὸ θέρος μαντεύομαι, εὖ δ' ἀποκόψεις  
 τοὺς στάχνας· μούνας δείδιθι τὰς ἀκρίδας.



THE farmer ploughed his land with furrows deep,  
Then on the teeming earth he threw the seed.  
“Augur,” he asked, “what harvest shall I reap?  
What crop and weather have the Fates decreed?”  
The prophet laid his counters on the board,  
And studied them again and yet again,  
Then gave from out a mind with learning stored  
This Delphic answer to the curious swain :  
“If ample rain falls on the seed you sow,  
And if no weeds amongst the corn appear,  
If you avoid the risks from frost and snow,  
If furious hailstorms spare the budding ear,  
If deer and other beasts should shun your field,  
And nothing else should do you any harm,  
I prophesy you’ll have a first-rate yield,  
But mark my warning—locusts always swarm.”

## XCVI

## THE WOODEN HORSE

LUCILIUS

Θεσσαλὸν ἵππον ἔχεις, Ἐρασίστρατε, ἀλλὰ σαλευσαι  
 οὐ δύνατ' αὐτὸν ὄλης φάρμακα Θεσσαλῆς  
 ὄντως δούριον ἵππον, ὃν εἰ Φρύγες εἴλκον ἅπαντες  
 σὺν Δαναοῖς, Σκαιὰς οὐκ ἂν ἐσήλθε πύλας·  
 ὃν στήσας ἀνάθημα θεοῦ τινος, εἰ προσέχεις μοι,  
 τὰς κριθὰς ποίει τοῖς τεκνίοις πτισάνην.

THE Trojan and the Grecian hordes,  
United, would have never moved  
A horse like this ; 'tis made of boards,  
'Tis so inert it can't be shoved.  
Simon, my friend, thou art ill-starred !  
No drug can move this equine jewel,  
Then send him to the knacker's yard,  
And use his corn for making gruel.

## XCVII

## A GENERATION OF VIPERS

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*ἀσπίδα, φρῦνοι, ὄφιν, καὶ Λαδικέας περίφενγε,  
καὶ κύνα λυσσητήν, καὶ πάλι Λαδικέας.*

VIPERS, toads, snakes, and ——<sup>1</sup>. Of these beware.  
Of ——<sup>1</sup> again, and mad dogs, have a care.

<sup>1</sup> Every one can here insert his own special antipathy, in the place of the Laodiceans of the original. It must, however, for metrical reasons, be expressed in a monosyllable. Even with this restriction, a fairly wide field remains open for purposes of selection.

## XCVIII

## THE LIFEBOAT

NICARCHUS

εἶχε Φίλων λέμβον Σωτήριον· ἀλλ' ἐν ἐκείνῳ  
 σωθῆν' οὐδὲ Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἴσως δύναται·  
 οὐνομα γὰρ μόνον ἦν Σωτήριος· οἱ δ' ἐπιβάντες  
 ἔπλεον ἢ παρὰ γῆν ἢ παρὰ Φερσεφόνην.

SALVATION, Philo named his boat.

Forsooth, it was a curious notion.

Not Zeus himself could make her float,

She sank into the depths of Ocean.

## XCIX

## THE FRUITS OF PHILOSOPHY

LUCIAN

τοῦ παγωνοφόρου Κυνικοῦ, τοῦ βακτροπροσαίτου  
 εἶδομεν ἐν δείπνῳ τὴν μεγάλην σοφίαν·  
 θέρμων μὲν γὰρ πρῶτον ἀπέσχετο καὶ ραφανίδων  
 μὴ δεῖν δουλεύειν γαστρὶ λέγων ἀρετήν·  
 εὔτε δ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἶδεν χιονώδεα βόλβαν  
 στρυφνὴν, ἣ πιτυτὸν ἤδη ἔκλεπτε νόον,  
 ᾗτησεν παρὰ προσδοκίαν καὶ ἔρωγεν ἀληθῶς,  
 κούδεν ἔφη βόλβαν τὴν ἀρετὴν ἀδικεῖν.

How wise the sturdy prig appeared  
When he refused some woolly mutton,  
And mumbled through his snow-white beard,  
“A virtuous man is not a glutton.”  
But when a savoury dish he spied,  
His virtue yielded to the charm,  
He ate his fill, and loudly cried,  
“Such food as this can do no harm.”

## C

## EPILOGUE

PHILODEMUS

ἤρασθην· τίς δ' οὐχί; κεκώμακα· τίς δ' ἀμύητος  
 κώμων; ἀλλ' ἐμάνην· ἐκ τίνος; οὐχὶ θεοῦ;  
 ἐρρίφθω· πολιὴ γὰρ ἐπείγεται ἀντὶ μελαίνης  
 θριξ ἤδη, συνετῆς ἄγγελος ἡλικίης.  
 καὶ παίζειν ὅτε καιρός, ἐπαίξαμεν· ἠνίκα καὶ νῦν  
 οὐκέτι, λωϊτέρης φροντίδος ἀψόμεθα.

I LOVED, I played, I drank my wine  
 In youth's brief blithesome hour of gladness.  
 Who has not heard the voice divine  
 Inviting joy akin to madness?  
 Alas, 'tis o'er! My wrinkled brow  
 Comes, like the warning of a sage,  
 To say that pleasure's past, and now  
 My thoughts must change to suit my age.



XI  
DEATH



## C1

## THE DECOY PARTRIDGE

SIMMIAS

οὐκέτ' ἀν' ὕληεν δρίος εὔσκιον, ἀγρότα πέρδιξ,  
 ἠχῆεσσαν ἴης γῆρυν ἀπὸ στομάτων,  
 θηρέων βαλίουσ συνομήλικας ἐν νομῶ ὕλης·  
 ᾗχεο γὰρ πυμάταν εἰς Ἀχέροντος ὄδον.

THY note, O Partridge, clear as any bell,  
 Decoys no more thy kinsfolk of the wood,  
 The speckled tribe securely range the dell,  
 For thou thyself hast crossed the Stygian flood.

## CII

## BENE MERENTI

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

γαῖα φίλη τὸν πρέσβυν Ἀμύντιχον ἔνθεο κόλποις  
 πολλῶν μνησαμένη τῶν ἐπὶ σοὶ καμάτων·  
 καὶ γὰρ αἰὲ πρέμνον σοι ἐνεστήριξεν ἐλαίης,  
 πολλάκι καὶ Βρομίου κλήμασιν ἠγλαΐσεν,  
 καὶ Δηοῦς ἔπλησε, καὶ ὕδατος αὐλακας ἔλκων  
 θῆκε μὲν εὐλάχανον, θῆκε δ' ὀπωροφόρον·  
 ἀνθ' ὧν σὺ πρηεῖα κατὰ κροτάφου πολιοῖο  
 κείσο, καὶ εἰαρινὰς ἀνθοκόμει βοτάνας.

DEAR Earth, Amyntichus is borne  
    Into thy bosom. He is thine.  
Bethink thee of the fruitful corn,  
    The olive-stock, and clinging vine.  
All these he cherished day by day,  
    Remember what to thee he gave,  
Lie softly on his temples grey,  
    With vernal flowers deck his grave.

CIII  
DEATH AT SEA

SIMONIDES

τῶμα μὲν ἄλλοδαπῇ κεύθει κόμης· ἐν δέ σε πόντῳ,  
 Κλείσθηνες, Εὐξείνῳ μοῖρ' ἔκιχεν θανάτου  
 πλαζόμενον, γλυκεροῦ δὲ μελίφρονος οἴκαδε νόστου  
 ἤμπλακες, οὐδ' ἴκεν Χίου ἐπ' ἀμφιρῦτην.

THEY tomb was fashioned by a foreign hand,  
 Thy children scan the eastern sky in vain.  
 Lie here for ever on the Euxine strand,  
 Thine island home thou ne'er shalt see again.

## CIV

## A RESTLESS GRAVE

ARCHIAS

οὐδὲ νέκυς ναυηγὸς ἐπὶ χθόνα Θῆρις ἔλασθεις  
 κύμασιν ἀγρύπνων λήσομαι ἠϊόνων·  
 ἦ γὰρ ἀλιρρήκτοις ὑπὸ δειράσιν, ἀγχόθι πόντου  
 δυσμενέος, ξείνων χερσὶν ἔκυρσα τάφου,  
 αἰεὶ δὲ βρομέοντα καὶ ἐν νεκύεσσι θαλάσσης  
 ὁ τλήμων αἴω δούπον ἀπεχθόμενον.

I, THERIS, who lie buried on this shore,  
 Tossed hither as a waif from out the deep,  
 Even in death must hearken to the roar  
 Of the remorseless sea, that knows not sleep.  
 The stranger laid me in my narrow grave  
 By the surf-beaten reef, and midst the dead,  
 Ever I hear the cruel, ceaseless wave  
 Rumbling its hated thunder o'er my head.

CV

## MORS IMMORTALIS

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*κἀπθανον, ἀλλὰ μένω σε· μενεῖς δέ τε καὶ σύ τιν' ἄλλον·  
πάντας ὁμῶς θνητοὺς εἰς Ἄϊδης δέχεται.*

I DIED, but wait with peaceful mind  
For thee, my friend. Thou too shalt wait  
For others that thou leavest behind.  
Death garners all men soon or late.



XII  
LIFE



## CVI

## THE JOY OF YOUTH

RUFINUS

λουσάμενοι, Προδίκη, πυκασώμεθα καὶ τὸν ἄκρατον  
 ἔλκωμεν κύλικας μείζονας αἰρόμενοι·  
 βαιὸς ὁ χαιρόντων ἐστὶν βίος· εἶτα τὰ λοιπὰ  
 γήρας κωλύσει, καὶ τὸ τέλος θάνατος.

My youthful love, drain unmixed wine,  
 Joy in the bath and in the wreath,  
 Seize the brief moments that are thine,  
 Old age creeps on ; the end is death.

## CVII

## THE USE OF LIFE

NICARCHUS

οὐκ ἀποθνήσκειν δεῖ με ; τί μοι μέλει ἦν τε ποδαγρός,  
 ἦν τε δρομεὺς γεγωνῶς εἰς Ἄϊδην ὑπάγω ;  
 πολλοὶ γάρ μ' ἀρούσιν· ἕα χωλὸν με γενέσθαι,  
 τῶνδ' ἕνεκεν γὰρ ἴσως οὔποτ' ἐὼ θιάσους.

WHAT matters if with gouty toe  
 I start to join the shades below ?  
 If of a crutch I stand in need,  
 Or rush away with greyhound speed ?  
 I shall be borne against my will,  
 Then here on earth I'll drink my fill.

## CVIII

## VAIN RICHES

ANTIPHANES

ψηφίζεις, κακόδαιμον, ὁ δὲ χρόνος ὡς τόκου οὕτω  
καὶ πολὺν τίκτει γῆρας ἐπερχόμενος,  
κοῦτε πιῶν οὔτ' ἄνθος ἐπὶ κροτάφοις ἀναδήσας,  
οὐ μύρον, οὐ γλαφυρὸν γνούς ποτ' ἐρωμένιον  
τεθνήξῃ, πλουτοῦσαν ἄφεις μεγάλην διαθήκην,  
ἐκ πολλῶν ὀβολὸν μῶνον ἐνεγκάμενος.

HE counts his gains, whilst hoary age  
Advances with each fleeting hour,  
He's sober, grasping, cold, and sage,  
He laughs to scorn the Paphian's power.  
Death comes, and he perforce must join  
The brave, the base, the sad, the merry.  
He leaves his hoards, save one poor coin,  
Enough to pay the Stygian ferry.

## CIX

## MINIMUM CREDULA POSTERO

PALLADAS

*πᾶσι θανεῖν μερόπεσσιν ὀφείλεται, οὐδέ τις ἐστὶν  
 αὔριον εἰ ζήσει θνητὸς ἐπιστάμενος·  
 τοῦτο σαφῶς, ἄνθρωπε, μαθὼν εὐφραине σεαυτόν,  
 λήθην τοῦ θανάτου τὸν Βρόμιον κατέχων,  
 τέρπεο καὶ Παφίῃ, τὸν ἐφημέριον βίον ἔλκων,  
 τᾶλλα δὲ πάντα Τύχῃ πράγματα δὸς διέπειν.*

BETHINK thee, Man, of Death and cruel Fate,  
 Perchance thou wilt not see to-morrow's sun,  
 Then grasp the wine-cup ere it be too late,  
 Be merry, ere thy little race is run.  
 Pleasures the beauteous Paphian Queen can give,  
 Her transient joys can now entrance thy soul.  
 Seize them, whilst still on earth allowed to live,  
 And leave the rest to Fortune to control.

## CX

## OUTRE-TOMBE

JULIANUS AEGYPTUS

*πολλάκι μὲν τόδ' ἄεισα, καὶ ἐκ τύμβου δὲ βοήσω·  
πίνετε, πρὶν ταύτην ἀμφιβάλῃσθε κόνιν.*

OFT have I cried, and still in death I cry,  
“Drink and be merry, comrades, ere you die.”

## CXI

## EARTH TO EARTH

ZONAS

*ἕως μοι τοῦκ γαίης πεπονημένον ἰδὸν κύπελλον,  
 ἄς γενόμην, καὶ ὑφ' ἧ κείσομ' ἀποφθίμενος.*

THE earthen wine-cup here on earth I crave.  
 Earth made me, and will hide me in the grave.



## CXII

## ECCE MYSTERIUM

BIANOR

*οὗτος ὁ μηδέν, ὁ λιτός, ὁ καὶ λάτρις, οὗτος ἐράται  
κάστί τινος ψυχῆς κύριος ἀλλοτρίης.*

THIS wretch, without a sole redeeming feature,  
Is loved, and lords it o'er some fellow-creature.

## CXIII

## THE SHADOW OF LIFE

THEOGNIS

*ἄφρονες ἄνθρωποι καὶ νήπιοι οἷτε θανόντας  
κλαίουσ', οὐδ' ἤβης ἄνθος ἀπολλύμενον.*

SPARE tears and mourning o'er the funeral urn,  
And mourn thy youth, which never can return.

## CXIV

## THE SHADOW OF DEATH

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*τοὺς καταλείψαντας γλυκερὸν φάος οὐκέτι θρηνῶ,  
τοὺς δ' ἐπὶ προσδοκίῃ ζῶντας ἀεὶ θανάτου.*

I do not weep or mourn the dead,  
They're gone, and rest at peace for ever.  
I weep for those who live in dread  
That Fate their cord of life will sever.

## CXV

## THE CLOSED ACCOUNT

PHILETAS

οὐ κλαίω ξείνων σὲ φιλαίτατε· πολλὰ γὰρ ἔγνωσ  
καλά· κακῶν δ' αὖ σοὶ μοῖραν ἔνειμε θεός.

GOD gave thee good and ill. I mourn thee not,  
Dearest of friends. Thine was the common lot.

## CXVI

## THE VOYAGE OF LIFE

PALLADAS

πλοῦς σφαλερὸς τὸ ζῆν· χειμαζόμενοι γὰρ ἐν αὐτῷ  
 πολλάκι ναυηγῶν πταίομεν οἰκτρότερα·  
 τὴν δὲ Τύχην βιότοιο κυβερνήτειραν ἔχοντες  
 ὡς ἐπὶ τοῦ πελάγους ἀμφίβολοι πλέομεν,  
 οἱ μὲν ἐπ' εὐπλοίην, οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν· ἀλλ' ἅμα πάντες  
 εἰς ἓνα τὸν κατὰ γῆς ὄρμον ἀπερχόμεθα.

THE bark of life puts out from port,  
 We hoist the mast and trim the sail,  
 Under the summer sky we sport,  
 At times we feel the wintry gale.  
 We know not where our lot is cast,  
 Our pilot, Chance, may wreck or save ;  
 Whate'er betide, the voyage past,  
 All cast their anchors in the grave.

## CXVII

## DAILY BIRTH

PALLADAS

νυκτὸς ἀπερχομένης γεννώμεθα ἡμαρ ἐπ' ἡμαρ  
 τοῦ προτέρου βίτου μηδὲν ἔχοντες ἔτι,  
 ἀλλοτριωθέντες τῆς ἐχθροσύνης διαγωγῆς  
 τοῦ λοιποῦ δὲ βίου σήμερον ἀρχόμενοι·  
 μὴ τοίνυν λέγε σαυτὸν ἐτών, πρεσβῦτα, περισσῶν,  
 τῶν γὰρ ἀπελθόντων σήμερον οὐ μετέχεις.

EACH fleeting day is killed by night,  
 Each morn the seed of Time is sown.  
 Ancient, in years take no delight,  
 Thou canst not call the past thine own.

## CXVIII

## THE COMMON ROAD

AMMIANUS

ἡὼς ἐξ ἡοῦς παραπέμπεται, εἶτ', ἀμελούντων  
 ἡμῶν, ἐξαίφνης ἤξει ὁ πορφύρεος,  
 καὶ τοὺς μὲν τήξας, τοὺς δ' ὀπτήσας, ἐνίους δὲ  
 φυσήσας, ἄξει πάντας ἐς ἐν βάραθρον.

MORN follows morn, and day succeeds to day,  
 We heed not what the fleeting hours forbode,  
 Sudden that Dark One seizes on his prey,  
 All reach the common goal, whate'er the road.

## CXIX

## NIHILISM

GLYCON

*πάντα γέλωσ καὶ πάντα κόνις καὶ πάντα τὸ μηδέν·  
πάντα γὰρ ἐξ ἀλόγων ἐστὶ τὰ γιγνόμενα.*

ALL is dust, and all is laughter,  
Think not of the dark hereafter.  
Here on earth be gay and jolly,  
Man's a fool, and all is folly.



## CXX

## LACHRIMAE RERUM

PALLADAS

δακρυχέων γενόμην καὶ δακρύσας ἀποθνήσκω  
 δάκρυσι δ' ἐν πολλοῖς τὸν βίον εὖρον ὄλον.  
 ὦ γένος ἀνθρώπων πολυδάκρυον, ἀσθενές, οἰκτρὸν,  
 συρόμενον κατὰ γῆς καὶ διαλυόμενον.

WEEPING, my mother gave me birth,  
 In tears I gained my daily bread.  
 I died. O piteous race! The earth  
 Claims as her own the mouldering dead.

## CXXI

## THE WORLD'S WORTH

AESOPUS

πῶς τις ἄνευ θανάτου σε φύγη, βίε; μυρία γάρ σευ  
 λυγρά, καὶ οὔτε φυγεῖν εὐμαρὲς οὔτε φέρειν·  
 ἡδέα μὲν γάρ σου τὰ φύσει καλὰ, γαῖα, θάλασσα,  
 ἄστρα, σεληναίης κύκλα καὶ ἡλίου,  
 τᾶλλα δὲ πάντα φόβοι τε καὶ ἄλγεα· κῆν τι πάθη τις  
 ἐσθλόν, ἀμοιβαίην ἐκδέχεται Νέμεσιν.

How, without Death, can we escape from thee,  
O Life! beset with sorrow and with woe?  
We must endure till Death shall set us free,  
Since Life's sad burthen we cannot forego.  
Yet thou art beautiful. The orb of day,  
The earth displayed in verdant panoply,  
The stars, the Moon, who sheds her silvery ray,  
Rejoice the spirit and enchant the eye.  
All else is fear and pain, which do annoy,  
For if perchance some happiness we greet,  
Fell Nemesis upon the track of joy  
Follows with vengeful footsteps, sure and fleet.

## CXXII

## THE JOY OF LIFE

METRODORUS

παντοίην βιότοιο τάμοις τρίβον· εἰν ἀγορῇ μὲν  
 κύδεα καὶ πινυταὶ πρήξιες· ἐν δὲ δόμοις  
 ἄμπανμ'· ἐν δ' ἀγροῖς φύσιος χάρις· ἐν δὲ θαλάσση  
 κέρδος· ἐπὶ ξείνης, ἦν μὲν ἔχῃς τι, κλέος,  
 ἦν δ' ἀπορηῆς, μόνος οἶδας· ἔχεις γάμον; οἶκος ἄριστος  
 ἔσσεται· οὐ γαμέεις; ζῆς ἔτ' ἐλαφρότερος·  
 τέκνα πύθος· ἄφροντις ἄπαις βίος· αἱ νεότητες  
 ῥωμαλέαι· πολιαὶ δ' ἔμπαλιν εὐσεβέες·  
 οὐκ ἄρα τῶν δισσῶν ἐνὸς αἴρεσις, ἢ τὸ γενέσθαι  
 μηδέποτ' ἢ τὸ θανεῖν· πάντα γὰρ ἐσθλὰ βίω.

ALL paths are good, choose as you please,  
At sea you'll surely fill your coffers,  
Or stay at home and take your ease,  
Or woo the charms which Nature offers.  
Art married? Taste domestic joys.  
A bachelor? Thy cares are lighter.  
Sweet is the love of girls and boys,  
Without them, perhaps thy life is brighter.  
'Tis not for thee to make the choice,  
Ne'er to be born or else to die.  
All things are good in life. Rejoice  
In these, nor heed that Death is nigh.

## CXXIII

## PIS-ALLER

## THEOGNIS

*πάντων μὲν μὴ φῦναι ἐπιχθονίοισιν ἄριστον  
 μηδ' ἐσιδεῖν ἀνγὰς ὀξέος ἡελίου·  
 φύντα δ' ὅπως ὄκιστα πύλας Ἄϊδαο περιῆσαι  
 καὶ κεῖσθαι πολλὴν γῆν ἐπαμησάμενον.*

NOT to be born or see the sun  
 Were best, but Fate decrees my birth.  
 May my brief race be swiftly run,  
 Then pile upon me heaps of earth.

## CXXIV

## THE LAST WORD

PALLADAS

*πολλὰ λαλεῖς, ἄνθρωπε, χαμαὶ δὲ τίθη μετὰ μικρόν.  
σίγα, καὶ μελέτα ζῶν ἔτι τὸν θάνατον.*

THOU talkest much, O man, but spare thy breath,  
Keep silence here on earth, and think on Death.





THEOCRITUS



## IDYLL II

### THE LOVE-CHARM

WHERE are my laurel leaves? bring here my charms.

Wreathe, Thestylis, with purple wool the bowl,  
That I may lure my lover to my arms,

And cast my witch-knots o'er his faithless soul.  
No hands assault my door; twelve days I pine,

He recks not if I live or join the shades,  
Thy power, O Love! or, Aphrodite, thine,

Has fixed his light desires on other maids.

Where wrestlers throng, I'll meet the truant soon,  
And strive with sharp reproach his soul to wring,  
But now to try the charm. Shine, Lady Moon!

To thee, and Hecate of Hell, I'll sing.

Hail, awful Hecate! the very hounds

All trembling view thee sweeping o'er the gore  
Of mortals done to death, and o'er the mounds

Where moulder those who lived in days of yore.

Be with me now ! Endue my magic arms  
 With potency beyond Medea's powers,  
 Nor Circe's, nor fair Perimede's charms,  
 Be mightier to ban or bless than ours.  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,  
 Draw home to me the man I love.*

Lo ! where the barley smoulders in a pile—  
 I note thy laughter, handmaiden unkind—  
 Nay, toss again the grain, and cry the while :  
 " I fling the bones of Delphis to the wind ! "  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,  
 Draw home to me the man I love.*

As the green laurel crackles in the fire,  
 And flames consume the leaves with eager haste—  
 Grant, awful Hecate, my fell desire—  
 So may the flesh of faithless Delphis waste.  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,  
 Draw home to me the man I love.*

And now, with aid divine, the wax dissolves,  
 So may love soften him who was my lover !  
 With Aphrodite's help, the wheel revolves,  
 So, restless, round my doors may Delphis hover !  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,  
 Draw home to me the man I love.*

I burn the husks. Hell's adamantine portal  
 Must yield to thee, O Artemis the Blest!  
 The dogs bay loud, they honour the Immortal,  
 In the crossways the Goddess stands confessed  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,*  
*Draw home to me the man I love.*

Hushed are the winds, silent the Ocean's swell,  
 But peace is banished from my hapless life,  
 I long for Delphis, whom I loved too well,  
 No maiden, but, alas! no wedded wife.  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,*  
*Draw home to me the man I love.*

Three times the words I utter with this prayer,  
 On other loves cast a Lethean spell!  
 So Ariadne, of the golden hair,  
 By Theseus was forgot, as legends tell.  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,*  
*Draw home to me the man I love.*

In Arcady there grows a subtle weed,  
 Coltsfoot its name, the courser's blood it fires,  
 May Delphis, mad as an Arcadian steed,  
 Rush to my door, inflamed by hot desires.  
*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,*  
*Draw home to me the man I love.*

This fringe from off his cloak I hither bring,  
 And cast into the cruel flaming bowl.

Ah! torturing Love, that like a leech doth cling,  
 And drains my heart, but leaves inflamed my soul!

*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,  
 Draw home to me the man I love.*

Haste, Thestylis, and with this magic herb  
 Anoint his house and, bending o'er the stones,  
 Mutter these words—may they his soul perturb!

“ Thus, faithless Delphis, do I smear thy bones.”

*My magic wheel, I bid thee move,  
 Draw home to me the man I love.*

And now alone I can bewail my love.

Ah! where shall I begin my tale of woe?

Anaxo came to bright Selene's grove,

And in her train she brought a sacred show.

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon!*

My Thracian nurse urged me to watch the sight.

Alack-a-day! would that she ne'er had spoke!

I seized a sweeping stole in hurried flight,

And o'er it cast Clearista's gala cloak.

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon!*

There I met Delphis in the mid highway,  
 Fresh issuing from the wrestler's glorious toil,  
 His breast shone brighter than thy silvery ray,  
 O Moon ! his beard the ivy bloom did foil.

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon !*

I gazed and loved ; my beauty on the wane  
 Showed how my heart was stricken with the wound.  
 Ten days I tossed in parching, restless pain,  
 No solace to my fever could be found.

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon !*

My hair fell off, and waxen grew my skin,  
 I sought each mumbling wizard's aid in vain.  
 Time passed, yet hotly burned the fire within,  
 And none but Delphis could assuage my pain.

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon !*

Then frenzied cried I : " Thestylis, be kind !  
 Some cure for this dread sickness must be found,  
 This Myndian holds my body and my mind,  
 Watch for him at his daily wrestling-ground."

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon !*

“ Find him alone, with no one by to tell,  
 And say : ‘ By fair Simaetha thou art sought.’ ”  
 ’Twas thus I spoke. She did my errand well,  
 The bright-limbed Delphis to my house she brought.  
*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,*  
*My Lady Moon !*

Then of a sudden I grew cold as snow,  
 The sweat, as Delphis at my door I spied,  
 Like dank dew streamed from off my pallid brow,  
 I would have spoken, but my tongue was tied.  
 Nor could I murmur, as a child alone  
 Calls on its mother in a fitful dream,  
 My body, once so fair, was turned to stone,  
 And did as lifeless as an image seem.  
*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,*  
*My Lady Moon !*

He knew not love, and spoke with downcast eyes :  
 “ Thy call by so much did outstrip my pace  
 As when, but yesterday, I gained the prize,  
 And outran swift Philinus in the race.”  
*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,*  
*My Lady Moon !*



“ Sweet love, by night I should have come to thee,  
 Bearing the apples of the God of Wine,  
 And on my head the leaves from off the tree  
 Of Hercules, bedecked with purple twine.”

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon!*

“ The friends and boon-companions of my youth  
 Would all have joyed, had I been well received,  
 They would have come—full well they know the truth,  
 Few equal me in beauty and in speed.  
 From thy sweet mouth I should have begged a kiss,  
 But had'st thou thrust me forth or said me nay,  
 And with a bolted door denied the bliss,  
 With torch and axe I would have forced a way.”

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon!*

“ And now to Cypris first I yield the praise,  
 And then to thee, who bad'st me come this night.  
 Love, it is clear, can light a wilder blaze  
 Than the swart Fire-God on great Etna's height.”

*Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,  
 My Lady Moon!*

"Love scares alike the maiden in her bower,  
 And throws his subtle charm o'er many a bride."  
 'Twas thus he spoke, I felt the Love-God's power,  
 And drew him to the soft couch by my side.  
 Then, dear Selene, face met glowing face—  
 Why need I linger o'er the tender rites?  
 We locked each other in a close embrace,  
 And revelled to the full in Love's delights.  
 The mother of the girl who plays my lyre  
 Came yesterday and shattered love's brief dream,  
 What time the Sun-God's horses girt with fire  
 Bear rosy-fingered Dawn from Ocean's stream.  
 She told her tale; my heart within me stirred;  
 She said that Delphis drained a cup of wine;  
 She knew not whom he loved, but this averred,  
 He pledged a name. Alas! it was not mine.  
 She spoke the cruel truth. He used to speed  
 Thrice, four times daily to my willing arms.  
 But now, Selene, Goddess fair, give heed!  
 Since twelve days is he lured by other charms.  
 Am I forgotten? Now, with magic spell,  
 His errant love I strive to conjure home,  
 But, should he vex me, to the gates of Hell,  
 I vow by all the Fates, he soon shall come.  
 That evil potion now will serve my needs,  
 Which from a Syrian I did once obtain.

But now farewell ! To Ocean turn thy steeds ;  
I have endured and will endure my pain.  
Farewell, Selene, ever fair and bright !  
And ye, the Stars in Heaven's firmament,  
That follow in the wheels of quiet night,  
Farewell ! and leave me to my sad lament.

## IDYLL III

### RUSTIC COURTSHIP

I WANDER on the hillside whilst I sing,  
And as in rustic verse my numbers flow,  
Lead, Tityrus, the she-goats to the spring,  
But 'ware the Libyan goat with butting brow.  
Ah! lovely Amaryllis, thy sweet eye  
No longer gleams inviting from the cave.  
Am I ill-favoured? Thou hast seen me nigh,  
Or dost thou hate me—I that am thy slave?  
See now, with apples ten thy grace I claim,  
And other ten I'll bring to thee to-morrow,  
I plucked them at the place thyself did'st name—  
Ah! pity then my heart's despondent sorrow!  
Would that I were a humming honey-bee!  
Under the clustering ivy I would dip,  
Under the flowery fern that hideth thee,  
Lightly to settle on thy cherry lip.  
I know the Love-God now. The cruel sprite!  
He is the offspring of some lioness,

His fire scorches, keenly doth he bite,  
 His mother reared him in some dark recess.  
 Ah! Heart of stone, but lovely to the sight!  
 Ah! Maiden of dark brows and beauteous face!  
 Even thine empty kisses give delight,  
 Then clasp thy goatherd in a close embrace!  
 An ivy wreath, dear love, I keep for thee--  
 This will I rend, and cast it far away,  
 Rosebuds and parsley vie right prettily  
 To charm the eye. Ah! Listen whilst I pray!  
 I will tear off my humble coat of skins,  
 And leap into the waves of yonder sea,  
 Where Olpis from the deep the tunny wins,  
 I'll chance my life, so be it pleaseth thee.  
 I learnt the truth of old, what time I found  
 The flowers whispered forth a sad alarm,  
 The poppy petal gave no crackling sound,  
 But drooped and withered on my smooth forearm.  
 And she that tells the future with a sieve,  
 And binds the sheaves as reapers onward move,  
 She said that I should love thee whilst I live,  
 But thou would'st never render love for love.  
 For thee I kept the twin kids and their dam,  
 Which brown-skinned Erithacis yearns to own,  
 To her I'll give them, maddened as I am,  
 Since wantonly my love thou dost disown.

Mine eyelid throbs. Is it a welcome sign  
That for her cruelty she will atone ?  
I'll stay and sing beneath this towering pine—  
That form cannot conceal a heart of stone.  
Hippomenes, who wooed the famous maid,  
Dropped apples as he ran, and won the race,  
To grasp the fruit swift Atalanta stayed,  
And straightway fell into Love's strong embrace.  
So famed Melampus in the days of yore  
From Thessaly the herd of oxen drove,  
What time his kinsman on the sandy shore  
Of Pylos gained fair Pero for his love.  
Thus Cytherea, frenzied by love's sting,  
When fair Adonis drew his parting breath,  
Still to his lifeless body loved to cling,  
And clasped him to her bosom e'en in death.  
Thrice-blest Endymion, on whom the spell  
Was cast, fair maid, of never-ending rest,  
And Jason, whom such wondrous things befell  
As mortals wot not of, he too is blest.  
Mine aching temples throb ; I'll yield my breath,  
Since now I know thou carest not for me,  
And, though the wolves devour me, may my death  
Prove sweet as honey in the mouth to thee.

IDYLL XV

THE FESTIVAL OF ADONIS

*Dramatis personae* . . . . .  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{GORGIO.} \\ \text{PRAXINOE.} \end{array} \right\}$

(The scene is at Alexandria, about 280 B.C., during the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus.)

GOR. Is fair Praxinoe in? PRAX. Ah! do mine eyes  
Deceive me? Gorgo dear, since we did meet  
It is an age! This *is* a glad surprise.  
Eunoe, bring a cushion and a seat.

GOR. I'm happy as I am. PRAX. Nay, sit thee down.

GOR. Oh! what a thing it is to know no fear!  
I scarce got here alive, for in the town  
The crowd is really something awful, dear.  
Such four-in-hands! Oh no! I really never!  
Such hosts of booted men the streets do bar!  
And then the road! It seems to last for ever!  
Praxinoe, you really live too far.

PRAX. The fault, dear, with my silly husband lies.  
The jealous wretch! Such spite fills all his soul!

To sunder us, to the world's end he hies,  
And takes—'tis not a house—this very hole!

GOR. Don't talk of Dinon thus, dear girl. Beware!  
Remember he's the father of your boy.  
See how Zopyrion marks you with a stare!

PRAX. Heed not! I don't mean papa, mother's joy!

GOR. Persephone! The child knows what we say!  
Your darling father! PRAX. Yes, his darling dad,  
The other day—we say the other day  
For all days that are past—I humbly bade,  
As of some rouge and soap I stood in need,  
To hasten to the shops and look about.  
Away he hurried at his greatest speed,  
And straightway brought me salt! The hulking  
lout!

GOR. *So* like my Diocleides! Fleeces five  
My spendthrift mate for seven drachmas bought,  
And what d'ye think he got? As I'm alive,  
Mere dogskins, shreds of pouches, things of  
nought!

But don your shawl, and pin it up with care,  
The feast of great Adonis will not wait.  
I hear the Queen's provided something rare,  
Haste to the Palace ere it be too late.

PRAX. Fine folks do all things finely. GOR. Well I know  
That, when the feast is o'er, a lot you'll say



To others who were absent. Let us go.

PRAX. For idlers each day is a holiday.

Eunoe, lazy girl! some water bring.

Cats love to sleep so soft, the proverb says.

See how she carries it! The stupid thing!

But bring it quick. I hate these slattern ways!

Don't pour so much. Oh! What a dreadful mess!

No! such a clumsy girl I ne'er did see.

I've washed my hands, but wetted all my dress.

Where's the big chest? Bring hither quick the  
key.

GOR. The flowing robe and brooch become you well.

It's very pretty. How much did it cost?

PRAX. Alas! dear Gorgo, I quite shame to tell—

Two minas of good coin as good as lost!

I could not get the stuff itself for less,

And then the work! It almost made me blind.

GOR. Well really, dear, it is a great success.

PRAX. Thanks for the pretty speech. You're very kind.

Bring me my shawl. In fashion's latest way

Arrange my sun-bonnet, and pin it tight.

No! Baby, you must stay at home. Nay! Nay!

Boo! Boo! Suppose the gee-gee were to bite!

There! you may cry, but still at home you stay,

I cannot have you lamed. We shall be late!

Here, Phrygia, take the child and let him play,

Call in the dog, and shut the outer gate.

[*They go into the street.*]

Gods ! What a crowd ! How can or dare we pass ?  
 Like countless ants, no reckoning can be made  
 Of measure or of number. Since, alas !  
 Your father, Ptolemy, became a shade,  
 You've kept the thieves in order, that I'll say.  
 Up to the passer-by they used to crawl,  
 Such tricks those scamps of Egypt used to play,  
 Birds of a feather, ruffians, scoundrels all !  
 Look, Gorgo dear, the chargers of the King !  
 You're trampling on me, man ! Take heed, I pray !  
 See, the bay's rearing ! What an angry thing !  
 Eunoe, silly girl, you're in the way.  
 That savage beast will kill his groom, I know.  
 I'm glad my blessed child is safe and sound !

GOR. Courage, Praxinoe, it's all right now,  
 We're safe, they've all their proper stations found.

PRAX. I'm feeling better now. For, since my birth,  
 Horses and flabby snakes I can't abide ;  
 I fear them more than anything on earth.  
 But see ! the mob advances like a tide !

GOR. (*to an old woman*).

Granny, hast been at Court ? OLD W. The  
 truth you speak.

PRAX. We want to reach it. Is there any way ?

OLD W. My pretty pair, Troy fell before the Greek ;  
Try hard, and you will always win the day.

GOR. The dame has said her say, nor tarries more.

PRAX. Women know all—how Hera married Zeus.

GOR. But see the monstrous crowd around the door !

PRAX. Prodigious, Gorgo dear ! But what the deuce !

Here, hold my hand, and you, Eunoe, grasp  
The hand of Eutychnis and keep a hold.

Now pray don't let me go, but tightly clasp,  
Let's keep together, then we shall be bold.

Oh ! Gorgo dear, my veil is rent in twain,  
My veil of muslin ! Such a dreadful tear !

For God's sake, sir, if you would fortune gain,  
I pray you of my shawl to have a care.

STRANGER. I scarce can help myself ; thy case is mine,  
But still I'm taking all the care I can.

PRAX. What a dense mob ! They shove like herded  
swine !

STR. Courage, fair maid. PRAX. Oh ! what a good  
kind man !

May you be blessed, sir, now and evermore.

Eunoe's squeezed ; keep, silly, to this side.

But come, we're on the right side of the door,

As the young bridegroom whispers to his bride.

GOR. Come, see these broidered marvels ! Dearest, see !  
How light and lovely ! Surely work divine !

Athene, Goddess ! Can such marvels be ?  
 What lovely work, and what a sweet design !  
 Like living things, the figures stand and move,  
 And not like woven patterns. Clever Greeks !  
 But see Adonis ! Ah, the gentle love !  
 Note the soft down upon his pretty cheeks !  
 How sweetly o'er his couch he seems to hang !  
 Beloved Adonis ! Lovely e'en in death !

STR. You women bore one with your Doric twang,  
 Cooing like pouter-pigeons. Spare your breath.

GOR. And who, fine sir, are you, that you should teach  
 Us Syracusans how we should behave ?  
 Peloponnesian is our native speech.  
 Keep your commands for one who is your slave.  
 Like famed Bellerophon, we both can claim  
 Descent from Corinth, and in vain you'll seek,  
 Rude man, a law that casts the slightest shame  
 On Dorian women who in Doric speak.

PRAX. One master's quite enough—we want no more.

GOR. Hush ! Hear the Argive woman's tuneful voice !  
 For the famed dirge the prize away she bore.  
 Our souls with melody will now rejoice.

## THE PSALM OF ADONIS

Hail, Aphrodite ! Golden Queen whose home  
     Lies in Idalium, and to whom belong  
 The fanes of Golgi ; thou who lov'st to roam  
     On the steep heights of Eryx ! Hear our song !  
 From the dark waters of eternal Hell,  
     The Hours, that move along with dainty tread,  
 Bring him whom, living, thou did'st love so well,  
     Beauteous Adonis rises from the dead.  
 Slowest amongst Immortals are the Hours,  
     But dear and welcome for the gifts they bear.  
 Men say that, by the use of godlike powers,  
     O Cypris, daughter of Dione fair !  
 Alighting on sweet Berenice's breast,  
     Thy potent will did work so mightily  
 Grim Death was conquered at thy soft behest,  
     And she was crowned with immortality.  
 Hence Berenice's child, to yield thee joy,  
     Much-worshipped Queen, who many names dost bear !  
 Arsinoe, bright as Helena of Troy,  
     Honours Adonis and all objects fair.  
 From flowery lawns, from many a lofty tree,  
     We cull ripe fruits and lay them at thy feet.  
 Disposed in silver baskets, whilst for thee

The air with fragrant incense is replete.  
 And all the sweetmeats that fair women make,  
     Mingling fine flour with blossoms of the spring,  
 And dainties that strange forms and figures take,  
     And oil and honey sweet we hither bring.  
 And here are built for thee the dim alcoves,  
     Laden with tender anise, evergreen,  
 Whilst, fluttering o'er thy head, like rosy Loves,  
     Children, in mirthful jollity, are seen.  
 Like half-fledged nightingales they love to perch  
     Upon the trees and, twittering as they fly,  
 The deep recesses of the thicket search,  
     And every bough in quick succession try.  
 But see the ebony and shining gold!  
     The eagles glistening in ivory white!  
 In their strong talons Ganymede they hold,  
     And to the son of Cronos wing their flight.  
 Oh! the fine coverlets of purple hue,  
     Soft and inviting as seductive sleep!  
 No softer wool wears the Miletian ewe,  
     Nor e'er was shorn from off the Samian sheep.  
 For fair Adonis one soft couch is spread—  
     Youthful Adonis of the rosy arms—  
 The lovely Cypris on another bed  
     Reposes in the gladness of her charms.  
 The bridegroom scarce hath reached his nineteenth year,

Still on his lips the golden down doth lie,  
 Thou lov'st him, Cypris, and he holds thee dear.  
 Good-night we warble, and away we fly.  
 But in the morn, when dew lies on the ground,  
 At the white beach which spreads along the main,  
 With locks unkempt and garments loosely bound,  
 Our voices in shrill song we'll raise again.  
 Thou only, dear Adonis, mortals tell,  
 Dost roam on earth and by the Acheron,  
 To Agamemnon no such lot befell.  
 Not mighty Ajax, nor the eldest son  
 Of Hecuba, slain in his manly prime,  
 Nor Pyrrhus, who was saved, enjoys thy fate,  
 Nor other heroes of more ancient time,  
 Nor he who did the race of men create,  
 Deucalion, nor those who shed their blood  
 In fighting with the Centaurs ; since the knell  
 Of death did sound, these ne'er on earth have stood,  
 But ever bide within the gates of Hell.  
 Be gracious to us now, Adonis dear,  
 And keep of future grace an ample store.  
 We hail thy advent ; in the coming year  
 We shall await thee and we shall adore.

GOR. Praxinoe ! we did not think to find  
 A woman half so clever ! Everything

She seems to know. What a prodigious mind !  
Blessed too is she who can so sweetly sing.  
My husband waits his dinner. Let us start.  
The man's all vinegar—I know him well—  
When waiting for his food, he's rather tart.  
Grace us next year, Adonis ! Fare thee well !



MOSCHUS



## LOVE THE RUNAWAY

FAIR Cypris seeks her truant boy, and cries :

“ Can no one tell me where the child doth stray ?

Who brings me news shall gain an ample prize—

A kiss for him who's seen my runaway !

But him who brings the child himself, with more

Than a mere kiss I'll gratefully requite.

Easy is he to mark amidst a score

Of other boys. His skin—it is not white,

But glows like fire. Piercing as a dart

And fiery are the glances of his eye ;

Soft is his speech, but wicked is his heart,

His honeyed voice his evil thoughts belie.

When wroth, he's all untamed and full of wile,

His very sports his cruelty do show.

Brazen his front, untruthful, steeped in guile,

Though lovely locks fall clustering o'er his brow.

Feeble his little hands, but they can wield

A dart which reaches to the realms of Dis,

Deftly his artful spirit lies concealed  
     Within his body's glistening nakedness.  
 Fluttering o'er all mankind with bird-like wing,  
     He lights, and in their inmost hearts he lies.  
 His shaft stands ever ready on the string,  
     That shaft so tiny reaches to the skies.  
 A golden quiver on his back he'll bear,  
     And bitter arrows—I have felt their smart!  
 But most of all his tools, the torch beware,  
     With which he e'en inflames the Sun-God's heart.  
 No mercy, when he's caught, should'st thou display,  
     But bind the truant tight with many a thong.  
 Neglect his tears, or he will slip away,  
     Despite his laughter, drag the child along.  
 The kisses from his poisoned lips deceive,  
     Fly, stranger, if to kiss thee he desire!  
 And should he say: 'Take these, my arms receive.'  
     Reject those treacherous gifts, baptized with fire.'

## THE LAMENT FOR BION

WAIL, wail for Bion, every woodland dell !  
Ye Dorian waters, raise your joyless song !  
Ye verdant groves, repeat the mournful knell,  
And flowers, in sadness clustering, join the throng !  
Let pale anemones, to show their grief,  
And rich-hued roses, flush a deeper red,  
Let Hyacinthus, on his pictured leaf,  
Enhance his tale of woe to mourn the dead.  
Ye nightingales, that midst the leaves lament,  
Warble his death to gushing Arethuse.  
Bion is dead, and song itself is spent,  
Whilst stricken lies the tuneful Dorian Muse.  
*Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.*

And ye, Strymonian swans, the tidings bring  
To Thracian nymphs and to Oeagrian maids,  
Chant with such voice as he was wont to sing,  
Say that our Dorian Orpheus joins the shades.  
No more his herd will hear him as he trills,

They listen for his joyous note in vain,  
 Forgetful of his native glades and hills,  
 By Pluto's side he chants a sad refrain.  
 Dumb are the mountains, and the echoing rocks  
 No jocund answer to his carol yield,  
 Wandering in aimless grief, his helpless flocks  
 Reject the proffered pasture of the field.  
*Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.*

Apollo's self, O Bion ! o'er thy bier,  
 Bewails thy fate, whilst Fauns in sable dress  
 Weep for the minstrelsy they held so dear,  
 And Satyrs pine in sorrowful distress.  
 The fountain Nymphs, in valley and on fell,  
 Weep floods of tears, where once they did rejoice,  
 Echo awaits the sound she loved so well,  
 And mourns the silence of her mimic voice.  
 Trees cast their fruit, flowers no longer thrive,  
 The teeming udder yields fair milk no more,  
 Since thy sweet song has ceased, within the hive  
 Responsive bees neglect their honeyed store.  
 Less mourned the dolphin on the billowy deep,  
 Less sad a note, O Philomel ! was thine,  
 Less Procne grieved when skimming from the steep,  
 And less did Halcyon for her mate repine.  
*Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.*

Less sadly by the dancing grey sea-wave

The sea-gull mourned. Less bitter tears were shed  
Over the beauteous son of Morning's grave

Than o'er our Dorian songster, who is dead.  
The swallow and the sweet-tongued nightingale,

To whom he taught the secret of his art,  
Bemoan his fate. The doves in answer wail :

“ Alas ! we too are smitten to the heart.”

O thrice-desired Bion ! Who can hold

The pipe wherewith thou madest melody ?  
What mortal lip shall, all unwisely bold,

Be pressed to reeds which none might touch but thee ?  
Thy voice still lingers, and thy breath is near,

Echo still feeds on music that is thine,  
If to great Pan himself the pipe we bear,  
To rival thee he will perchance decline.

*Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.*

Fair Galatea on the beach would stray,

And feast her ears, whilst wandering by thy side,  
On harmony unlike that savage lay

With which the Cyclops wooed her as his bride.  
Far other love did the bright maiden crave,

She gazed on thee, and not upon the brine,  
Grief-stricken, she forgets the curling wave,  
But still she tends thy now deserted kine.

Dead is the Muse ; the Loves, bereft of bliss,  
 Hover around thy tomb in fruitless woe.  
 Dearer thou wert to Cypris than the kiss  
 Which on her dying mate she did bestow.

*Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.*

Meles, most musical of streams, to thee  
 A second bitter sorrow Time doth bear,  
 That sweetest votary of Calliope,  
 Great Homer, thou did'st mourn with many a tear.  
 Men say that goodly son thou did'st lament,  
 Thy tears were mingled with the salt sea-spray  
 Yet now, before one bitter grief is spent,  
 With a fresh sorrow thou dost waste away.  
 One songster drank from the Pierian Spring,  
 The other from the Arethusan fount,  
 One of thy daughter, Tyndarus, did sing,  
 Achilles' mighty feats did he recount ;  
 He told of Menelaus, and of Troy,  
 Of deeds of daring, and of war's alarms ;  
 In tears and blood the other found no joy,  
 He sang of Pan, of herds, and rural charms.  
 Pipes would he fashion, and, at his behest,  
 The foaming milk gushed free into the bowl ;  
 He woke, whilst clasping Love unto his breast,  
 Thy passion, Aphrodite, in the soul.

*Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.*



All towns and cities join the mournful cry,  
     Less sorrowed Ascra over Hesiod's death,  
 Boeotia's forests heaved a gentler sigh  
     When mighty Pindar drew his parting breath.  
 Less was Alcaeus mourned, the tuneful son  
     Of pleasant Lesbos, in his native land,  
 Less keen a wail, beloved Anacreon,  
     Arose for thee along the Teian strand.  
 Not o'er Archilochus, but o'er thy grave,  
     Does sea-girt Paros chant a funeral strain,  
 Whilst Mitylene, by the Aegean wave,  
     Forgets that Sappho ne'er will sing again.<sup>1</sup>  
 To others thou did'st give thy wealth ; to me,  
     Heir to the Doric Muse thou did'st impart,  
 Thou hast bequeathed the gift of minstrelsy,  
     This dirge betrays the sorrow of my heart.  
     *Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.*

Ah me ! The mallows, anise, and each flower  
     That withers at the blast of winter's breath.  
 Await the vernal, renovating hour,  
     And joyously awake from feignèd death.

<sup>1</sup> Six lines, which are given by Kiessling, and by Ahrens (Leipsic, 1855), but which are of doubtful authenticity, are here omitted.

But men, the great, the mighty, and the wise,  
     Die and descend into the hollow tomb,  
 They sleep the sleep from which none e'er can rise,  
     And silently endure their endless doom.  
 For ever hushed in silence thou dost lie,  
     Whilst wayward Nymphs decree in judgment harsh  
 That the unenvied frog eternally  
     Shall croak discordance from the swampy marsh.  
 O Bion ! Thou did'st drain the poisoned bowl,  
     Why were thy honeyed lips no antidote ?  
 Surely he had no music in his soul  
     Who, all unmoved, could hearken to thy note !  
 Justice awaits him, but I still must tell  
     My tale of sorrow, and my grief unfold.  
 Would that I could descend to gloomy Hell,  
     As Orpheus and Alcides did of old !  
 If to the dwelling of the awful King  
     Of that dread region I might haply stray—  
 Perchance it is thy lot for him to sing—  
     Then would I listen to thy dulcet lay.  
 Nay ! Sing again some old Sicilian strain,  
     Such as Persephone was wont to hear,  
 When, in her girlhood's home by Aetna's main,  
     The Dorian music struck upon her ear.  
 Not unrewarded will thy music be,  
     Bethink thee of what Orpheus did require,

He craved his beauteous bride, Eurydice,  
And earned the boon with his melodious lyre.  
Thus, sweetest Bion, whom we now bewail,  
Again thy native land thou may'st rejoice ;  
And, if my humble song could aught avail,  
In Pluto's presence I would raise my voice.



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